Int'l Force Should Stay in for Two Years: Iceberg

Japan Pledges Sup for Bolivia's Refor

Election Trip

Mladic's Sacked General Staff Warns of "Fratricidal War"

BELGRADE — The sacked general staff loyal to dismissed Bosnian Serb Army commander General Ratko Mladic have warned the political authorities that a "Fratricidal war" could break out over police harassment of the army.

A letter sent by the sacked general staff to the Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry was published in the Yugoslav daily newspaper *Blic* on Wednesday.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



TEHRAN TIMES

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Palestinians to Sign Trade Accord With Europe, Canada

CAIRO — The Palestinian Authority will sign agreements soon with the European Union and Canada to liberalize trade, Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said here on Wednesday.

"Europe will sign with us an agreement to liberalize trade and I will be going to Brussels on November 22," Shaath said on the sidelines of the third Middle East and North Africa Economic Forum in Cairo.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Ayatollah Seyed Morteza Pasandideh Passes Away



PASANDIDEH

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN- Ayatollah Seyed Hussein Mostafavi, known as Pasandideh, elder brother of the late Imam Khomeini, Father of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, passed away Tuesday, November 12, 1996, at the age of 101.

A book on Ayatollah's memoirs has just gone off the press. Entitled "Ayatollah Pasandideh's Memoirs," the book is a transcription of tapes containing the ayatollah's words and conversations during his lifetime compiled in book form.

The first chapter of the book, which contains four sections, deals with unpublished happenings in the life of Imam Khomeini's family. The second chapter deals with Iran's contemporary history, also in four sections.

The family of the late Imam Khomeini released a statement on the occasion of the departure of Ayatollah Pasandideh, announcing that the Ayatollah will be buried in the city of Qom in the holy Shrine of Hazrat Masomeh on Friday.

Meantime, Hasan Khomeini, son of the late Ahmad Khomeini, son of the late Imam Khomeini condoled with the family of Ayatollah Pasandideh and the nation.

A statement released by Hasan Khomeini also gave a brief biography of the Ayatollah Pasandideh, shedding light on the struggles of this "man of piety" against Reza Shah and his son, the defunct Mohammad Reza Shah.

Ayatollah Pasandideh suffered many years of exile on account of his struggles against Reza Khan's feudal government. He also served imprisonment terms in time of Mohammad Reza Shah for his struggle to keep the name of Imam Khomeini alive, a name whom the deposed Shah attempted tirelessly to wipe out.

The *Tehran Times* staff condoles with the bereaved families of the deceased Ayatollah Pasandideh.

Iran, China to Expand Bilateral Ties



Photo: Mojtaba Tahin

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the visiting chairman of Chinese National People's Congress, Qiao Shi, here on Wednesday.

Conveying the warmest greetings of the Chinese president to his Iranian counterpart, Shi voiced his country's readiness to boost cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in economic, commercial and technical fields. He also referred to the history of Iran-China relations and underlined that no country can undermine friendly ties between the two countries.

Touching on Iran's remarkable economic, commercial and technical developments as well as the rise in the Iranian people's living standards in recent years, the Chinese dignitary noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has gained valuable experience through implementing numerous projects in the economic and technical areas.

The chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress described his visits with the high-ranking Iranian officials as 'positive', adding that the exchange of views between the officials of the two countries would prepare the ground for strengthening the bilateral ties.

President Rafsanjani, in return, expressed satisfaction over the expansion of bilateral economic and commercial links between Tehran and Beijing, saying that Iran warmly welcomes expansion of relations with China in all possible fields.

The president reiterated that Tehran's relations with Beijing are strategic and that China is Iran's important partner on both the regional and international levels. "In view of the two countries' common attitude toward the international issues, Iran and China have numerous potentials for expanding their bilateral relations," Rafsanjani stressed.

In a separate meeting with the Iranian First Vice-President, Hassan Habibi, Shi called for yet further expansion of ties between Iran and China, adding that there is a bright future for relations between the two countries. The Chinese official went on to say that his country is very optimistic about the future of cooperation with Iran.

Terming the Iranian-Chinese relations 'deep-rooted' and underlining that such relations have been greatly consolidated ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian vice-president, for his part, called for even more wide-ranging relations between the two countries.

Habibi further announced Iran's disapproval of the U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries and said, "The time for the bully states' intervention in internal affairs of other countries is past, as we are currently witnessing that most of the world countries are opposed to the U.S. hegemonic policies, particularly its economic sanctions against Iran."

The senior Iranian official also said that the inter-parliamentary ties between the two countries would help the present relations between Iran and China to grow in all possible fields.

Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran Sign Caspian Oil Agreement

Compiled From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The foreign ministers of Russia, Turkmenistan and Iran signed a memorandum in the Turkmen capital Ashkhabad on Wednesday to cooperate in developing Caspian oil resources, Interfax news agency reported.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, quoted by Interfax, said the three countries, all bordering on the oil-rich Caspian Sea, would set up a joint company to develop its mineral resources on an equal basis.

The company's founding documents will be signed later this year.

The memorandum was open to the other two states bordering on the Caspian — Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan — as well as outside investors, Primakov said.

Last month Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati called for the five nations bordering the Caspian Sea to draw up a legal framework to facilitate the exploitation of the sea's resources.

Iran sharply criticized a multi-billion-dollar deal between Azerbaijan and a Western consortium to develop Caspian oil, after Tehran was excluded from the project under U.S. pressure.

The last treaties on the Caspian were signed between Iran and the former Soviet Union in 1921 and 1940.

Moscow has warned that it will retaliate if the huge bounty of oil in the land-locked Caspian is claimed unilaterally by one of the other four countries bordering on it.

So far, Moscow has not blocked the big deals providing that its petroleum giant Lukoil has been given access.

Velayati left Ashkhabad for Tehran on Wednesday after signing a cooperation agreement with Russia and Turkmenistan at the end of a ministerial meeting of the five Caspian Sea littoral states.

Talking to IRNA, Velayati, referring to the talks held in Ashkhabad and the final statement issued at the end of the session, said that close cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states in the areas of oil and gas, shipping, fishing, environment protection would serve the interests of all regional states.

Velayati said that the agreement signed was a big step which herlads a bright prospect for cooperation among those states.

He predicted that the next session would be held in Iran or in Russia or Turkmenistan in a month to be attended by deputy foreign ministers as well as oil and gas experts of those countries.

He added that the three countries' officials had agreed on formation of a joint company for exploration and exploitation of oil and gas at the Caspians Sea.

The Iranian minister concluded that regional issues, including Afghan problem, were among other topics discussed by the participants on the sidelines of the session.

The foreign minister further underlined that such kind of cooperation on among the Caspian Sea littoral states will make them less dependent on foreign powers.

On situation in Afghanistan, Velayati said that foreign ministers of all the Caspian Sea littoral states share a common view on critical situation in that country.

Doctors Warn of "Critical" Situation for Kurds in Iran

TEHRAN — The French Relief Agency Doctors Without Borders warned here on Wednesday of an "extremely critical" situation for Kurdish refugees in Iran as winter approaches.

Up to two children under the age of five have been dying from cold each night in the past 15 days in Kileh Camp, situated in a mountainous region of West Azerbaijan Province along the Iraqi border, Sotiris Papaspyropoulos, head of the group's Tehran office, told reporters.

The bulk of some 65,000 refu-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Twelve Killed in Algeria

ALGIERS — Twelve people were killed overnight Tuesday in a village in northern Algeria, security services said, in a new attack blamed on activists.

The fatalities in Bensalah near the town of Blida included four women and three children.

The Blida region was the scene last week of one of the bloodiest attacks of Algeria's war between the army and fundamentalist militants. In the mountain hamlet of Sidi el Kabir, 32 people were killed by activists.

Tuesday's killing brought the total number of casualties this

(Contd on Pg. 14)

UN Condemns Washington Over Anti-Castro Law

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly condemned the United States Tuesday for its economic embargo on Cuba, and slammed a recent U.S. law aimed at choking off foreign investment in the Caribbean country.

The resolution said the General Assembly was "concerned about the continued promulgation and application by member states of laws and regulations, such as ... the Helms-Burton Act, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other states, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade."

It went on to urge countries with such laws "to take the necessary steps to Repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible."

The resolution also called on Washington to lift its trade embargo on Havana, which has been in effect nearly 35 years to try to undermine the communist rule of President Fidel Castro.

The United States does not apply such sanctions to communist-ruled China — one of its key trading partners — and has dropped the Cold War embargo it had on Vietnam.

A total of 137 countries voted to adopt the resolution. The only opponents were the United States, Israel and Uzbekistan, while 25 countries abstained.

The vote highlighted the controversy over whether sanctions or engagement is the best policy toward the Cuban government, which has an evolving economic reform process under way and a wealth of international trade dollars on the line.

All 15 European Union countries voted in favor of the resolution. Last year, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands abstained.

The resolution comes a day after leaders of Spain, Portugal and

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Hezbollah Denies Iran-Supervised Arms Workshop

BEIRUT — The Hezbollah denied Wednesday a report of Iranian weapons experts supervising an arms workshop set up in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon for anti-Israeli guerrillas.

"This information is categorically baseless and untrue" Hezbollah said in a statement.

On Tuesday, Western diplomatic sources in Nicosia said Iranian weapons experts were supervising an arms workshop set up two weeks ago in Brital, 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the east-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

TEHRAN TIMES

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In the Name of Allah

And when they repented and saw that they had gone astray, they said: If our Lord show not mercy to us and forgive us, we shall certainly be of the losers.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:149)

OPINION

Iran, China Strategic Partners

The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Qiao Shi, is here on an official four-day visit. In the course of his visits with the senior Iranian officials, praising the historical ties between Iran and China, the Chinese dignitary said that such relations were established at the time when a number of present countries had not come into existence yet.

Indeed, both Iran and China are cradles of the most glorious civilizations the world has ever known. And the positive impact of mutual interaction between the two cultures on the lives of the two nations is indisputable. In addition, the two countries play a crucial role in their respective regions and extensive cooperation between Beijing and Tehran will definitely contribute to the regional development and international peace.

Concerning its foreign policy, China has fortunately not submitted to the U.S. bullying and hegemonic policies in the post-Cold War era. Even while effecting economic reforms, Beijing has been adopting an independent line in foreign policy, defying the dictates of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and enforcing its own policies on foreign relations and trade. Thus, it is clear that China has rightly been termed the 'emerging Asian giant'.

Despite the incessant U.S. pressures on China to break off its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Beijing has always rebuffed Washington. China's rejection and condemnation of the d'Amato Law is an indication of its independent foreign policy.

Also, assured that Iran's nuclear technology would be applied only for peaceful purposes, the Chinese government has refused to comply with the U.S. call for a halt to nuclear cooperation between the two countries. In fact, China's determination to continue its cooperation with Iran is highly commendable and will definitely boost its image as a reliable trade partner among the Third World countries.

Needless to say, Beijing and Tehran are strategic allies and there is enormous ground for yet further expansion of ties between the two countries. Given the firm political will of the two sides for upgrading mutual cooperation, the volume of trade exchange can be easily increased by exploiting the existing potentials for more extensive cooperation between Iran and China.

As a step in this direction, the exchange of high-ranking delegations should be aimed at exploring new avenues of boosting trade exchange to a desirable ceiling. Undoubtedly, closer ties between the two Asian countries will encourage more intimate ties among other countgies in the continent.

A congenial atmosphere has already been created for strengthening the Beijing-New Delhi-Islamabad-Tehran axis to replace the alliances and pacts that used to exist in the Cold War era. If this axis is strengthened and extended to include Central Asia and Caucuses, the dependence of the regional countries on the industrialized Western nations will be minimized. Both Iran and China should undertake the task of helping the above dream 'come true'.

Dutch Defense Minister Lauds Iran's Commitment to Peace

TEHRAN — The Iranian Ambassador to the Netherlands Shamseddin Kharaqani and the Dutch Minister of Defense J.J. Voorhoeve exchanged views in a meeting in the Hague on Tuesday on important regional and international issues.

In the meeting, Voorhoeve referred to the glories of Iran's centuries-old culture, and appreciated the Islamic Republic's peace efforts in strife-torn countries such as Afghanistan.

The Netherlands attaches great importance to the role of Islamic Iran in Asia and Middle East regions, said the Dutch official, and luaded the Iranian commitment to international accords particularly nuclear disarmament and the opposition to chemical weapons.

He noted that the Islamic Republic cooperates with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Voorhoeve called Islamic Iran as a stable and rich country in view of its energy resources and culture.

(IRNA)

Velayati Winds Up Turkmenistan Visit

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and the accompanying delegation wound up visit to Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, on Wednesday where they attended a one-day meeting on determining the Caspian Sea legal regime.

Prior to his departure, Velayati met with Turkmen Vice President and Turkmen Head of Irano-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Commission Sarjayev and Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Boris Sheikhmuradov.

Further promotion of Tehran-Ashkhabad relations, trilateral cooperation and issues related to Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) were discussed in the meeting.

During the talks, it was decided that heads of the two countries joint commission should review issues related to bilateral ties and future cooperation between the two republics.

The overdue debts of the Iranian businessmen was among other issues reviewed in the meeting.

As to trilateral cooperation between Iran, Turkmenistan and Ukraine as well as among Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia, it was decided that an expert meeting be held in December to finalize the list of goods and services to be exchanged between those countries.

In a meeting Tuesday night with his Azerbaijani counterpart Hassan Hassanov, Velayati underlined the need for an early finalization of the legal regime for the Caspian Sea so that the rich resources of the world's largest inland sea could be properly and orderly exploited by littoral states.

He said a legal regime would end the misuse of the Caspian Sea's resources by outsiders, and expressed hope that littoral states would reach due understanding in order to finalize the proposed regime.

Velayati, along with his counterparts from the other four Caspian countries –Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan– attended the first meeting of Caspian Sea states' foreign ministers in the Turkmen capital earlier Tuesday.

The Iranian foreign minister, referring to the recent visit to Azerbaijan of Iran's First Vice President Hassan Habibi assessed the accords signed between the two countries as "constructive".

He said the two countries' cooperation in the transportation field would boost Tehran-Baku trade and economic ties, besides helping Azerbaijan reach the Persian Gulf ports via Iranian soil.

Velayati also expressed regret over continuation of the Karabakh crisis and the sufferings of the people displaced by the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and calls for a fair and peaceful solution to the Karabakh crisis.

Hassanov in response said Habibi's tour to his country opened up new vistas of bilateral cooperation.

(IRNA)

Habibi Felicitates New Qatari, Armenian Premiers



TEHRAN — Iran's First Vice President Hassan Habibi sent separate congratulatory messages to the new Qatari and Armenian prime ministers, on their taking up office.

In his message to new Qatari Premier Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, Habibi was confident that the two countries will witness further expansion of bilateral relations.

Habibi in his other message to the Armenian Prime Minister, Armen Sarkisian, expressed hope that Tehran-Yerevan relations would further grow under the new premier.

(IRNA)

Five Persons Killed in Mazandaran Floods

SARI, Mazandaran Province — Five people were killed and massive damage to property and farmland were inflicted in this Caspian Sea province as a result of heavy rainfalls and floods.

The provincial Headquarters for Unprecedented Disasters said Wednesday that 2,000 houses have been inundated in the city of Fereidoun Kenar.

Due to emergency situation the headquarters has called for dispatch of helicopters, motor boats and relief supplies by the Interior Ministry.

Meanwhile, 1,000 houses and 4,000 hectares of farmland have sustained heavy damage in the Nekka region.

The headquarters added that 22 villages at the provincial capital of Sari, nine in Nekka, seven in Babol, 10 in Qaem Shahr and a large number of others in Feridoun Kenar have been inundated by the floods.

Relief teams are continuing operations to help the flood victims.

(IRNA)

Quake Jolts Boroujen

BOROUJEN, Charmahal-Bakhtiari Province — An earthquake measuring 3.5 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale shook Boroujen in this southwestern province Tuesday night.

The Seismological Base of Boroujen, affiliated to Geophysics Center of Tehran University registered the quake at 22:58 hours local time.

No report has yet been received on probable loss of life or damage to property.

(IRNA)

Caspian States Back Iran's Peace Efforts in Afghanistan

ASHKHABAD — Foreign ministers of the Caspian Sea states in their meeting here on Tuesday agreed on holding a special meeting to review developments in strife-torn Afghanistan.

The foreign ministers of the five littoral states —Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan— praising the efforts of Islamic Iran to bring peace to Afghanistan, called for an immediate end to the bloodshed in that country.

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Yevgeny Primakov termed the outcome of the Regional Conference on Afghanistan which was held in Tehran late last October very "fruitful".

He said Moscow attaches great importance to Tehran's peace initiative to bring stability to Afghanistan, and denounced the attempts by any single Afghan faction to impose its rule over other political factions and ethnic groups.

Primakov also underlined his country's political will to restore peace in Tajikistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati briefed the gathering on the outcome of the Tehran conference on Afghanistan, calling it a step in the right direction

He pointed out that last week's visit to Afghanistan by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, was to follow up the results of Tehran conference.

In the foreign ministerial meeting, Turkmenistan's Boris Sheikhmuradov, Kazakhstan's Kasem Tokayev and Azerbaijan's Hassan Hassanov, also lauded Iran's peace initiative in Afghanistan.

The three foreign ministers also announced their respective countries' support for an international meeting on Afghanistan under the auspices of the secretary general of the United Nations.

(IRNA)

Fourth Iran-Malaysia Joint Commission Held

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Fourth Iran-Malaysia Joint Commission commenced work here yesterday.

Preparatory sessions of the commission were held at the Plan and Budget Organization on Tuesday by members of the Iranian and Malaysian delegations.

During Tuesday's meeting, the two sides prepared the draft of a joint agreement between the two countries.

Speaking at the opening session of the commission, the commission secretary and head of the Iranian preparatory delegation, Seyed Shamsuddin Husseieni, stressed the cultural and religious commonalties enjoyed by both Iran and Malaysia.

Husseini expressed the hope that the holding of such meetings would prepare the ground for expansion of relations between the two Muslim countries.

He also reiterated Iran and Malaysia's capacity to broaden their cooperation in the fields of commerce, agriculture, industry, transportation, communications, energy, culture, tourism, sport, and joint investments.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry and head of the Malaysian delegation, Ghazali, expressed his satisfaction over the existing cooperation between Iran and Malaysia and said the two countries' common stances in issues of international concern are leading factors in boosting mutual ties.

Middle East Development Bank Ready in 1997

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Middle East Development Bank should be up and running by the end of 1997, a senior U.S. State Department official told the Cairo Regional Economic Conference on Wednesday, an AFP dispatch reported.

Larry Butcher, the director of the department's office of development finance, said the bank's transition team would start work this year to prepare "the rules and regulations and policies for the bank .. (which) will be adopted by the board of governors when it first meets.

"We believe that will be concluded to allow the bank to become operational in late 1997," he told a seminar at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the forum on Tuesday that the United States would sign the bank's charter next week.

Jordan was the first to sign the charter, and Italian Foreign Minister Lumberto Dini announced at the forum Tuesday that Italy had become the second country to put pen to paper.

Butcher added that "all 19 prospective members were proceeding with their own ratification" processes, and that they should be completed within the next year.

Plans for the banks were first announced at the first MENA conference in Casablanca in 1994, but since then the project had encountered resistance from many European and Persian Gulf countries.

French Foreign Trade Minister Yves Gallard told the Cairo forum Monday that France was prepared to contribute funding to the bank's capitalization.

At last year's conference in Amman, Galland raised fierce objections to the project. However, he said Tuesday that while France would have preferred the creation of a more flexible fund, as opposed to a bank, Paris was supporting MEDB to be "positive and constructive."

The U.S. is the principal backer and main shareholder in the project, which will have authorised capital of five billion dollars and paid-up capital of 1.25 billion dollars.

It has pledged 52 million dollars to the capital, and Butcher said authorization from the U.S. Congress for the funding should not present any difficulties.

"We have a commitment between the administration and Congress to work together intensively to come up with the agreement on funding for the United States' share in the bank," he said.

India May Have to Import 65m Tons of Oil by 2002

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - In order to sustain the economic growth of over seven percent in India's Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002), India may have to import 65 million tons of oil and additional 1,200 MW of power generation by the year 2002.

In 1995-96, India's domestic production of oil was 35.19 million tons, leaving India to import about 36 million tons of oil to meet the consumption of around 71 million tons, IRNA reported.

This was said by India's Power Secretary P. Abraham to news persons here yesterday while giving India's energy requirements for the next ten years.

Abraham said that the Indian government would project its proposed energy policy for the next 10-15 years during the three-day international energy conferecne of oil producers and consumers, starting on December 6 in the western Indian state of Goa.

The international conferecne "Asia Energy Vision 2020", to be inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, will discuss global issues on energy front for sustainable development.

About 30 countries and organizations like OPEC are taking part in the three-day proceedings.

Agricultural Production Growth Is Slowing

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cautioned that growth of agricultural production is slowing throughout the world, said a press release issued by the UN Information in Tehran (UNIT) yesterday.

According to FAO this is because supplies are sufficient for consumers with the means to purchase food while the undernourished in developing countries need more food but cannot afford to buy it.

The growth rate of world agricultural production was three percent a year in the 1960s, 2.3 percent in the 1970s, two percent in 1980-92, FAO said, adding it is now 1.8 percent and will continue to drop in the period to the year 2010.

Leaders from close to 200 countries were to attend the week-long World Food Summit to open in the Italian capital of Rome yesterday.

President Concludes Khuzestan Province Visit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashémi Rafsanjani said here on Tuesday that 10 important petrochemical projects would be implemented next year if approved by the Majlis.

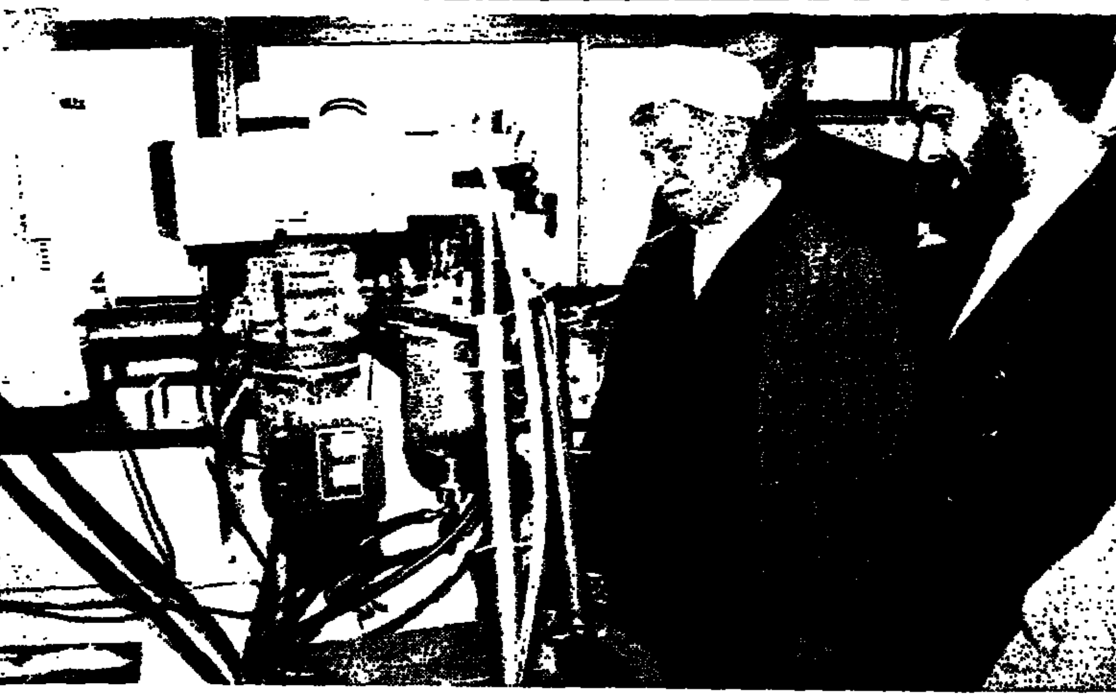
Speaking upon his return from a one-day tour of the southwestern province of Khuzestan, President Rafsanjani said the petrochemical sector has many advantages for Iran because the sale of its products could return the money spent on setting up petrochemical plants, IRNA reported.

Referring to the commissioning of the aromatic unit of the Petrochemical Complex of Bandar Imam Khomeini, the president said the complex set up by Iranian experts at a cost one eighth of what demanded by foreign companies produces one million tons of petrochemicals a year.

He said a contract was already signed with foreign companies to rebuild the complex after the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) within 31 months at DM450 million, but, the contract was scrapped for some reasons and Iranian engineers rebuilt the complex in 15 months with a total spending of DM66 million.

He said three important projects were implemented in Bandar Imam Khomeini Petrochemical Complex at a cost of $200 million including parazolin producing unit which the Japanese companies had asked to receive its value added.

On sugar-cane development projects in the province, he said with current development projects going on stream, annually 800,000 tons of sugar, 200,000 tons of paper and a considerable amount of feed, chipboard and related products weighing two million tons would be available in Khuzestan Province.



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inspects equipment at Iran's Polymer Research Center here. The president inaugurated the center on Wednesday.

Photo: Mojtaba Takin

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, November, 13, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,376	1,384	2,362	2,374
Austria	schilling	166	167	285	287
Belgium	(100)francs	5,555	5,587	9,537	9,584
Canada	dollar	1,309	1,317	2,248	2,259
Denmark	krone	304	306	523	525
France	franc	344	346	591	594
Germany	mark	1,169	1,175	2,006	2,016
Holland	guilder	1,039	1,045	1,784	1,793
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	198	199
Japan	(100)yen	1,571	1,580	2,698	2/711
Swiss	franc	265	267	456	458
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,886	2,903	4,955	4,980
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

Periodical Introduction
9th Issue of Quarterly Shokoufeh Published



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The quarterly *Shokoufeh*, published by Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, has its 9th issue available in newsstands. The periodical pays much attention to educational, social and cultural awareness in a labor community to promote cultural and social awareness of labor families.

The quarterly covers articles on the importance of labor in Islam; *labor life in past and present*; analysis of social, intellectual, and physical characteristics of the children; noise pollution; how to make our children familiar with Islam and God; a glance at mothers' rights; admonition; the role of painting in preschool years; family counselling; how to behave young adults; daydreaming; our world and the world of children; ways of housekeeping; sewing; cooking experiences; cultural elements and their role in economic development of the country; productivity; and a lot more.

Also the 7th issue of *Javaneh*, the quarterly's inside supplement for children, is available in the kiosks.

This inside supplement covers some articles on prayer, science, painting, handicrafts, along with humors, contests and short stories for children.

Former State President's Widow Sells Antiques at Auction

BEIJING — Six antique knickknacks belonging to the widow of China's former state president — her only possessions salvaged from *the ravages of Mao Tse-tung's* radical followers — sold at auction Tuesday for 566,000 yuan ($68,000).

Wang Guangmei decided to put the five porcelain pieces and an ivory brush holder up for sale to benefit a charity that helps poor peasant mothers find jobs, daughter Liu Ting said.

Wang's elegance is legendary. It is believed to have inspired jealous rage in Mao's wife Jiang Qing. But the 75-year-old once jailed as a spy stays out of the spotlight and did not attend the auction put on by her daughter's company.

"She never comes to these things," Liu said.

The objects were gifts from her wealthy capitalist family when she married communist revolutionary Liu Shaoqi in 1948.

Nineteen years later President Liu became the target of Communist Party Chairman Mao's purges during the cultural revolution. Youthful supporters known as Red Guards ransacked Wang and Liu's home and dragged the couple away for interrogation.

Wang spent 11 years in prison. She did not know until after her release in 1978 that Liu died in 1969 — denied medical treatment as "the No. 1 capitalist roader" and a "lackey of imperialism."

The government did return to Wang the six small items from her dowry but not much else.

Wang's pieces — a 1,000-year-old Song dynasty porcelain bowl, and two bowls, two plates and the brush holder from the Qing, China's last dynasty — were among the few relics that attracted spirited bidding at the auction held by Sungari International.

"*I am just playing around,*" said a buyer of one of the bowls, an executive with a real estate company who like most buyers asked that his name not be used.

With relics from 5,000 years of history, China has lots of artifacts to sell and the communist government has been keen to cash in on the business. Auction houses have sprouted up in recent years, and Chinese, newly rich from China's 18 years of capitalist-style economic reforms, have become prime buyers.

Liu Ting — who got an MBA from Harvard University 10 years ago and then spent several years helping the Rockefeller family invest its money — helped Sungari start up 15 months ago.

The company put some 800 paintings, porcelains and other relics up for sale Monday and Tuesday. Many expensive items, 2,500-year-old bronzes for example, were withdrawn after lackluster bidding while a 200-year-old silver and wood bowl sold for 220,000 yuan ($26,500), 50 percent above its estimated worth.

"With the Chinese you never know what they will buy," Liu said.

(AP)

Supplication of Kumayl

2

O Light! O All-Holy!
O First of the First and Last of the Last!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which tear apart safeguards!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which bring down adversities!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which alter blessings!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which hold back supplication!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which dash all hopes!
O Allah, forgive me the sins
which bring about tribulation!
O Allah, forgive me
every sin I have committed and
every mistake I have made!
O Allah, verily I seek nearness to You
through remembrance of You,
I seek intercession from You with Yourself,
and I ask You through Your Munificence,
to bring me nearer to Your Mercy,
to bless me with gratitude to You and
to inspire me with Your remembrance.

'Mesyar' Marriage, a New Phenomenon in Saudi Arabia

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Not more than a year ago, a kind of news swept through offices and made people ebullient or anxious, depending on their beliefs. An unusual Marriage dubbed 'Mesyar Marriage' is being practiced in Saudi Arabia which is exempting the husband to provide household necessaries (*nafaqa*) or stay with his wife during the night.

Mesyar Marriage was first introduced by *Fahd ul-Qanim*, a marriage counsellor in Al-Qasim region, some 400 kilometers north of Riadh, and later dominated the central regions of the country to be a social phenomenon in Saudi Arabia.

The reason why it was named *Mesyar*, is because the man visits his 'mate' during the daytime, which is more or less like neighbors' visit of one another. In Saudi native dialect such a visit is called *'Mesyar', because the guest does* not stay for long with the host.

Those women who have no opportunity to marry naturally — because of old age or former unsuccessful marriage(s) — undergo the hard requirements of Mesyar Marriage.

This kind of Marriage costs one-tenth of a an ordinary marriage.

There are 'for' and 'against' views on the part of the public concerning the issue. Most of the opponents are women.

Those who favor the phenomenon believe that the marriage gives a new life to spinsters and divorcees.

Men, however, are the most advocates of Mesyar Marriage, specially those who intend to have many wives. The husband practices this newly introduced way of marriage in private.

The opponents, on the other hand, believe that Mesyar Marriage *is nothing other than women abuse*, whose rights are neglected by the husband's exempt from giving necessaries to his mate.

Some prominent scholars and *Ulema*, relying on traditions, have approved this marriage but warned against its adverse consequences in an Islamic society.



The newly practiced marriage is being targeted with harsh criticism by some other *Ulema*, as Sheik Mohammad ibn Saleh *al-Athimin*, one of the prominent religious leaders from Al-Qasim region, who once announced the marriage permissible but later revoked his words.

Abstention of a mufti to give a religious decree on an issue is either because the matter is not clear enough for him, or because he believes giving a decree may impose negative impacts on the society.

In his answer to a question by a man who asked about the religious decree on Mesyar Marriage, the mufti recommended the man to look for a marriage which is based on the mutual understanding between the husband and wife. He also bid the man to marry a woman who could be a mother for his children.

According to the sheik, the marriage is 'not illegal' but it is perilous.

"If a married man marries Mesyar way, and if he practices the *marriage in private and keeps it* secret, his marriage will be null and void, because 'concealment of marriage,' according to most of the *Ulema*, 'annuls the marriage,'" the Sheik said.

As mufti of Al-Qasim and other *Ulema* assert, Mesyar Marriage can bring about irreparable consequences in the society. It allows the men to marry at most four women. For marrying the fifth, legally it is required that the man divorce one of the four.

According to Sheik Al-Athimin, Mesyar Marriage is absolutely harmful for a society. That is why he did not approve the newly emerged marriage.

NEW YORK, NY, United States (Nov. 13): "Le Jardin de l'Artiste a Vetheuil" by Claude Monet is among the impressionist and modern paintings to be sold at Christie's in New York. The oil on canvas is dated 1881. (AFP PHOTO)

Ice Hockey-Nhl Roundup

Tehran Times Service

Sabres 3, Panthers 2, OT

BUFFALO, New York — Donald Audette scored two goals, including the game-winner with 58.7 seconds remaining in overtime Monday night, to give the Buffalo Sabres a 3-2 win over the Florida Panthers.

The winning goal came after Florida goaltender Mark Fitzpatrick fell on his stomach saving a Brian Holzinger shot. Audette skated in and slid it past Fitzpatrick while he was down.

Randy Burridge also scored for the Sabres (7-8-1), who snapped a two-game losing streak with the win. Radek Dvorak and Ed Jovanovski both scored for the Panthers, who remained atop the Atlantic division with a 10-2-4 record after having a two-game winning streak snapped.

Canadiens 3, Oilers 2, OT

In Montreal, Saku Koivu's power-play goal 3:37 into overtime gave the Montreal Canadiens a 3-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers.

Koivu jammed the rebound of Vladimir Malakhov's point shot in with defenseman Bryan Marchment serving a hooking penalty.

Jason Arnott and Martin Rucinsky swapped third-period goals in a game dominated by goaltenders for 60 minutes.

The loss left Edmonton 1-4 on a six-game road trip that ends Wednesday night in Ottawa. Montreal returned home from a six-game trip on which it went 1-4-1.

Avalanche 6, Islanders 2

In Uniondale, New York, Joe Sakic, the NHL's leading scorer with 29 points, had two goals in a five-goal burst as the Colorado Avalanche beat the New York Islanders 6-2.

The Avalanche were losing 2-1 when they went on their scoring run from the second to the third period. Eric Lacroix, Aaron Miller, Rene Corbet and Peter Forsberg also scored for the Avalanche, who are unbeaten in their last 10 games (8-0-2).

Valery Kamensky added three assists and Patrick Roy won his league-leading 11th game, stopping 32 shots. The last loss for the Avalanche was on Oct. 22, a 5-1 defeat in Calgary.

Canucks 3, Rangers 2

In New York, Markus Naslund's tie-breaking goal in the third period gave the Vancouver Canucks a 3-2 victory over the struggling New York Rangers.

Naslund broke a 2-2 tie at 4:56 of the third period when he beat Rangers goaltender Mike Richter with a backhand shot while falling to the ice.

The crowd jeered the Rangers, chanting "re-fund," as the team fell to a 6-9-4 record. Vancouver is 5-1-0 in its last six games and 8-6-0 overall.

New York's Wayne Gretzky had tied the score 2-2 at 16:59 of the second period with his eighth goal. Gretzky has scored in 17 of the Rangers' 19 games this season.

Stars 3, Mighty Ducks 2

In Anaheim, California, Greg Adams scored the go-ahead goal on a power play late in the second period and Joe Nieuwendyk had a goal and an assist as the Dallas Stars beat the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim 3-2.

Darryl Sydor also scored for the stars, who pulled into a tie with Idle Chicago and Detroit for first place in the Central Division after going 2-2 on their four-game road trip. Goaltender Andy Moog earned his 335th NHL victory, tying Hall of Famer Gump Worsley for sixth place on the all-time list.

Paul Kariya extended his goal-scoring streak to four games and Alex Hicks also scored for the Ducks, who lost to the Stars for the 10th time in 11 tries with forward Warren Rychel sitting out a one-game suspension.

Basketball-NBA Roundup

TORONTO — Dale Ellis scored 37 points to lead the Denver Nuggets to a 104-93 victory over the Toronto Raptors Monday night.

Ellis hit 15 of 23 shots from the field, including 9 of 15 in the first half as the Nuggets took a 53-34 lead at intermission.

Rookie Marcus Camby, making his first start as a pro, scored 10 straight Toronto points in the third quarter and finished with a career-high 26 points.

Bulls 97, Suns 79

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 26 points, Dennis Rodman pulled down 22 Gebounds in Chicago's latest victory. The Bulls remained unbeaten while Phoenix is still winless.

Scottie Pippen added 18 points for the defending NBA champions, who at 7-0 are off to the best start in franchise history. Houston (6-0) is the league's only other undefeated team.

Michael Finley scored 17 points for the Suns (0-6), who are within three losses of their worst start ever.

Spurs-Jazz Postponed

In Salt Lake City, a damaged floor at the Delta Center was deemed unsafe and forced the postponement of Utah's game with the San Antonio Spurs. Jazz officials blamed the cause of the problem as a combination of weakened plastic support rods and moisture from the ice rink under the floor.

Majlis Organizes Sports Committee

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Majlis representatives organized a "Majlis Sports Committe" here Tueday, it was learned from a Cultural Public Relations press release received yesterday.

According to the press release, Ahmad Nateq Nouri, one of the country's senior statesmen, was selected to preside over the newly-formed "Majlis Sports Committe". Members were said to be briefed on the organizational set-up, rules and regulations of the committee, formed to supervize sports activities in the country's and their problems. The briefing was followed by a balloting which elected the following members of the executive board:

Head of the Executive Board: Dr. Ghafourifard

Deputies: Ms. Faezeh Hashemi and Speaker Ahmad Nateq Nouri

Speaker: Engineer Seyed Hossein Hashemi

Executive secretary-general: Engineer Adab

Executive board secretaries: Akbari and Nowzari

The next session of the "Majlis Sports Committee" will decide on the heads of specialized sports sub-committees, the statement concluded.

Salas Goal Clinches Chile Win

SANTIAGO - Marcelo Salas clinched Chile's second victory in the World Cup South American Qualifying Group here on Tuesday when he scored the only goal of an exciting but often bruising clash against Uruguay.

Salas set the 70,000 spectators roaring when he was on target on the hour.

It was Uruguay's third defeat in five group matches. chile have now won two out of five.

In all, ten players were shown the yellow card by overworked Ecuador Referee Angel Guevara — Uruguay's Poyet (15), Francescoli (20), Gutierrez (33), Siboldi (47), Mendez (51), Herrera (55), Romero (64) and Chile's Castaneda (25), Chavarria (30) and Salas (60). (AFP)

European Championship Rings Up Record Profit

GENEVA — This year's European Championship finals were financially the most successful ever staged, UEFA said on Tuesday, as it closed its books on Euro 96 with a record 114 million swiss franc (USD 90 million) profit.

In going over final accounts, the committee for the European Soccer Championship attributed the increase to above average income from ticket sales, television and sponsorship revenues.

The 16 countries which took part in the tournament and UEFA's 51 member associations will all share in the financial windfall.

A total of 90 million Swiss francs (USD 71 million) will be divided among the 16 nations in the finals, with the champions Germany pocketing the largest share of 10.80 million swiss francs.

The Czech Republic, who lost 2-1 to Germany in the final, will get 9.90 million Swiss francs while the two other semifinalists, France and England, will each receive 7.65 million swiss francs

The 51 associations, including newcomers Andorra and Bosnia-Herzegovina, will split 24.4 million swiss francs. Each association will receive 120,000 Swiss francs annually over the next four years.

Hosts the English Football

(Contd on Pg.15)



MUNICH, Germany (November 12): Bayern Munich's Markus Babbel (rear) clears during a tackle with Werder Bremen's Havard Flo (10) at Olympic stadium late Bayern Munich won the third round German Soccer Federation (DFB) Cup match 3-1.
(AFP PHOTO)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

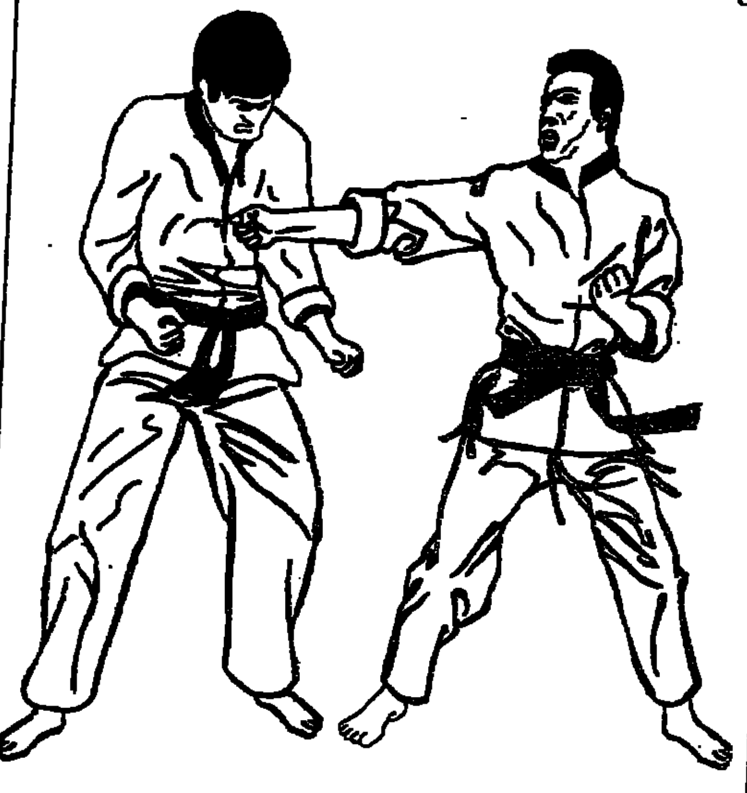
Skills of Kung Fu

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 14)



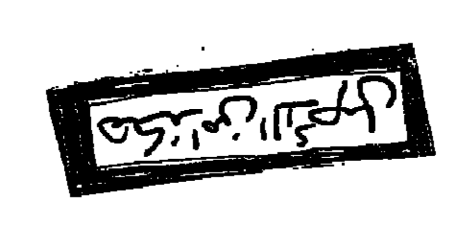
When World War II was about to occur and the communists were struggling to come into power, many of those engaged in kung fu along with Chiang Kaee-Shek left for Taiwan, the Hong Kong colony, and even remoter territories. Consequently, most of kung fu methods paid much attention by the kung fu players from northern China were later introduced to these areas' inhabitants. 'Wing Chwan Kung Fu' was one of these methods which was created in the 7th century by a woman named 'Wieh Wing Chwan'. Thanks to its real effects and simplicity, her method as a self-defense one was extremely welcomed by the general public. Seemingly, her method has been based on the trainings



of a Buddhist nun, Neg Mooei. Wing Chwan appeared from behind bamboo curtains by a well-known kung fu master who played a key role in introducing kung fu in many countries. It was no one but Bruce Lee's instructor, Eep Mun. At the end, a piece of writing concerning the future of martial arts in People's Republic of China. The Chinese Mao Tse-tung has been surely familiar with kung fu. In his first article, A Survey on Physical Culture, written in his 21 in 1917, Mao clearly wants his nation to ponder on combination of literary and martial arts as properly described in an old proverb, "Civilize Your Thoughts Not Your Body." Mao aimed at reminding the people the physical trainings and a sense of martial heroism-seeking. In spite of considerable changes during 60 years, his ideas have remained unchanged.

In the century of horrific atomic weapons, the arm-free combats as a determining factor appeared in Cuba, southeastern Asia and Mozambique. Anyway, there is no doubt that the Chinese have had a historic role in developing the most deep-rooted and probably deadly methods.

According to Lao-tzu, the philosopher of ancient China and founder of Taoism, whatever is firmly established, it is not easily uprooted.



Taleban Target Kabulis for Intimidating Searches

SAROBI, Afghanistan — The Taleban have intensified security checks on civilians traveling from the Afghan capital Kabul with searches being conducted on all vehicles, an AFP correspondent saw Wednesday.

The fundamentalist militia used boys as young as seven years old to search women passengers — an act considered un-Islamic if carried out by a man — at a checkpost at the town of Sarobi, 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of Kabul.

"They are looking for illegal guns and people from the Rabbani government," bus driver Ahmed Najib said as his vehicle was being searched.

However, locals and travelers say the crackdown is part of a growing intimidation toward traditionally liberal Kabulis trying to leave the city which has been under Taleban control for more than a month.

The Taleban militia who seized Kabul on September 27 have enforced strict Islamic law, governing the appearance and conduct of Afghans.

Despite the protests of the women bus passengers, who were clad in the all-covering Burqa through which they can only see through a mesh over the eyes, they were subjected to a searching hand check by young boys employed by the militia at the checkposts.

Men were taken from the buses and rigiosly searched up to five times during the journey from Kabul to Sarobi, and at the appropriate times of the day they were forced to pray.

The length of their beards was also measured by the heavily armed militiamen. Those whose facial hair did not come up to scratch were given a severe lecture on proper Islamic conduct.

"I shave but I am a good Muslim," a passenger Mohammad Farid protested after receiving a fiery dressing down at a checkpost when his clean shaven face was seen by a Taleban soldier.

"I wish commander Zardat was still here," he added, referring to the warlord who previously controlled the area and who was reputed to be responsible for extortion and robbery of travelers.

The increased rigor of searches comes as ex-government officials, fighting the Taleban north of Kabul, have called for Kabulis to begin a popular uprising against the militia, hoping to spark local revolts.

An outburst of anti-Taleban feeling helped the ex-government forces recapture Jabul Saraj and Charikar towns north of Kabul last month.

The main roads north of Kabul which lead to opposition-held territory have been closed for more than three weeks due to fighting between the Taleban and opposition coalition forces.

(AFP)

Yeltsin's Chest Pains Gone: Doctors

MOSCOW — The chest pains which President Boris Yeltsin suffered before his quintuple heart bypass operation nine days ago have completely gone, his doctors said Wednesday.

Yeltsin's health remains stable, he has a pulse rate of 88 per second and his temperature is normal, Interfax news agency reported, quoting Kremlin doctors.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin's planned address to the nation, to be broadcast on the radio or television, could take place Friday.

Yeltsin, 65, is now working two or three hours daily in an armchair at the Kremlin's central clinical hospital, and is spending six hours daily out of bed, the doctors said.

He is expected to return to the Kremlin at the end of December or in early January, according to the presidential press service.

On Tuesday Yeltsin had his first conversation with a foreign head of state since his operation — a seven-minute telephone chat with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Yeltsin underwent the heart bypass after suffering three heart attacks in the past 15 months. He has been away from the Kremlin since late June.

(AFP)

Police Discover Settlers' Weapons Cache

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said on Wednesday that a cache of weapons stocked by extremist Jewish settlers had been discovered in the Al-Kahlil region.

"We discovered the weapons in a cache and we are looking for other stocks," Kahalani told a parliamentary committee.

The minister did not provide any details on the amount and types of weapons that were seized.

All Israeli settlers living in the occupied West Bank have the right to possess arms: assault rifles, semi-automatic machine guns or pistols.

(AFP)

Five Nation Taba Group Fails to Make Arab-Israeli Trade Progress

CAIRO — Representatives of the ministerial Taba group met here Wednesday to examine ways of promoting trade between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the United States and the Palestinian Authority but failed to make progress, a senior Palestinian official said.

"Until now the meeting yielded no results," Palestinian Minister of International Cooperation Nabil Shaath said on the sidelines of the third Middle East and North Africa Economic Forum.

"As long as the Palestinians will not have freedom to move and trade it will not be possible to guarantee Israel's freedom to trade in the region," Shaath said.

The U.S. information center here said the ministers "decided to suggest a course of action to be implemented to remove trade barriers and to improve the Palestinian business environment."

"This course of action should be completed by March 1997," the statement said.

"Removing restrictive measures will prevent the decline and contribute positively to the performance of the Palestinian economy as well as the political atmosphere surrounding the peace process," a statement said.

"The participants noted with concern that the already weak Palestinian economy is suffering from restrictions and closure which hinder the daily movements of Palestinian Labor and trade," it added.

Israel has imposed since February a blockade of Palestinian territories after a wave of attacks inside the Zionist state.

The Taba group, named after an Egyptian Red Sea resort, last met at the second economic forum which was held in 1995 in Amman.

(AFP)

Mubarak Says Three Main Obstacles to AL-Khalil Deal

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said on Wednesday there were three obstacles to reaching an agreement on an Israeli troop redeployment from the volatile West Bank town of Al-Khalil, adding they were questions of Palestinian "dignity."

The Palestinians are concerned about Israeli demands that their troops be allowed to enter all areas of Al-Khalil in "hot pursuit" of any alleged criminals or terrorists, he said in a televised interview with the U.S. news network CNN.

"The Palestinians are terrified of hot pursuit," Mubarak said. "They think if they agree to the hot pursuit that means they are going to have another authority over the Palestinian Authority. This will not be accepted by the public opinion there."

Mubarak said the Palestinians also objected to Israeli demands that Shohada street, which runs through the middle of Al-Kahlil, be reserved for exclusive Israeli use as part of measures aimed at protecting the 400 militant Jewish settlers living in the the town surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

"That means that city will be divided," Mubarak said.

The Egyptian president said the last stumbling block was the Israeli demand that Palestinian police not carry side arms in joint patrols of Al-Khalil with Israeli troops as agreed to last year in the accord turning most of the town over to Palestinian self-rule.

"How can you persuade the Palestinian policeman not to carry the machine gun or arms with his Israeli counterpart. He will not accept this ... and turn against the leadership of the Palestinians," he said.

"The other point is the dignity of the individual and of the Palestinian," Mubarak said, referring to the Al-Khalil accord, which was to have been implemented in March but has been repeatedly delayed by Israel because of security reasons.

But the Egyptian president, who spoke on the sidelines of a regional economic conference in Cairo, held out hope that the two sides could reach agreement if they wanted to.

"They could reach an agreement," he said.

(AFP)

Netanyahu Protests Arrest of Israeli in Egypt

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a sharp protest to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over the arrest of an Israeli citizen on charges of spying, the Israeli media reported Wednesday.

Israel public radio and the *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper said Netanyahu sent his protest to Mubarak after receiving assurances from the Israeli intelligence agencies that the suspect, Azzam Azzam, did not work for them.

In his message, Netanyahu said the charges against Azzam, a Druze from northern Israel, were "completely unfounded" and he demanded the man's immediate release, the radio said.

Azzam, who worked for the Israeli textile firm Tifon at its Cairo plant, was arrested a week ago by Egyptian security services on suspicion of spying for the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency.

His arrest followed that of an Egyptian employee of Tifon, Emad Ismail, 35, who was picked up on November 2 and told the authorities he had been recruited to spy for Mossad during a trip to Israel, an Egyptian judicial source said.

Under interrogation, Ismail said he had been recruited in Israel by "two young Arab Israeli women" and that his contact in Egypt was Azzam, the judicial source said.

The two were remanded for 15 days on Monday while police investigate the charges against them.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy discussed Azzam's case on Tuesday in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Mussa, on the sidelines of the regional economic conference.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

PALESTINIANS...

EU foreign ministers last month gave the European commission the greenlight to negotiate an interim "association" accord with the Palestinian Authority aimed at helping bolster the Palestinians' weak economy.

The 15-member EU also pledged to provide a $650 million in assistance to the Palestinians over a period of five years.

The European commission is hoping to conclude by the end of this year negotiations with the Palestinians on trade and cooperation in the fields of education, culture and regional development.

The EU has granted a total of 320 million ecus ($416 million) to bolster development in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since 1993.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

HEZBOLLAH...

ern town of Baalbek.

The sources said the workshop was being used to upgrade Katyusha rockets, and to assemble Kalashnikov automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

They said Brital was chosen because of a long-disused facility in the village for the repair of arms belonging to a member of the Mazlum family.

Hezbollah spearheads attacks on Israeli and allied militia forces in an occupied border zone of South Lebanon. It has in the past fired Katyushas into northern Israel.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DOCTORS...

gees arrived in September to escape fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq and have been sheltered in camps along the border.

Iran says it has done all it could to accommodate the Kurds, but has called for urgent international help to meet growing needs.

"The situation is critical, and unfortunately the mobilization of the international community has been feeble," warned Papaspyropoulos, whose organization has been the only non-governmental agency present at the camps since the start of the crisis.

Heavy snowfalls have already threatened to close access to several camps where the distribution of aid is already "precarious," with a shortage of tents and blankets, he added.

Xavier Noc, the relief group's coordinator in Sanandaj, the main town in Iranian Kurdistan, said a number of illnesses have broken out in the camps there, including respiratory problems and diarrhea.

Moderate cases of malnutrition has also been rampant, especially among the infants and elderly, he said.

The number of the refugees has not diminished despite a relatively calm situation in northern Iraq and a cease-fire agreement between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"Some have returned but others are still arriving, Papaspyropoulos said.

It also called on the international community to "urgently mobilize aid."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TWELVE...

month to at least 76, according to incomplete figures.

The activists rose up in January 1992 after the army intervened to cancel elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The ensuing violence has left tens of thousands of people dead.

The number of attacks has increased in recent weeks in the runup to a constitutional referendum called by President Liamine Zeroual for February 28.

On Monday, a car bomb blast killed 10 people and wounded more than 20 in an Algiers suburb.

The precise motives for the attacks remain unclear.

Many fall into the category of revenge operations against the civilian population. Activist organizations have threatened in particular to kill members of self-defense groups that protect villages and their families, as well as young men doing military service.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

UN...

Latin American countries issued a strong statement against Helms-Burton, which sanctions non-U.S. firms that buy, sell or use assets nationalized after the 1959 Cuban revolution.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MLADIC'S...

"We remind the leadership of the Interior Ministry of the blood split in the common war ... against the enemies of the Serb people. We call on them not to allow the services, bodies and units of the Bosnian Serb police to be pushed into a Fratricidal war," the letter said.

The letter said that the police, who had been put on alert, were "entering military establishments," strengthening their control over military traffic and members of the army, and "giving military orders" to junior members of the army.

Mladic and 80 top officers were sacked by the Bosnian Serb political leadership on Saturday, which swore in a new command.

However, they have refused to accept their dismissal, and it is still unclear who is controlling the army.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 9)

CIA...

has never been prosecuted in the United States, notes Webb, who suggests that he has been protected by federal agencies.

He now languishes in Tipitapa prison outside Managua but is expected to be released soon, according to the *Mercury News*.

Blandon was jailed for 28 months in the late 1980s but released in return for cooperating with the DEA. He has since been paid over $166,000 by the DEA, money which he has reportedly invested in timber-export operations in Central America.

The key question now, according to Webb, is 'What (was) the relationship between the intelligence agency and Meneses and Blandon. The CIA wouldn't tell us.' he said on CNN.

Deutch said recently that 'the agency never had any relationship' with the two men, but the furore which the stories have created in the African-American community has forced him to order the CIA's Inspector-General to conduct a thorough investigation over the next 60 days.

Ollie North, the White House aide who ran the Iran-Contra operation out of the National Security Council, has denounced the story as 'absolute garbage (and) an effort to distract the American people from the Clinton a administration's appalling record of dealing with drugs'.

But the Justice Department and the House Intelligence Committee told the CBC they will be carrying out their own inquiries.

(Courtesy Third World Network Features)

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 11°C, Min. temp. 5°C

Clear to partly cloudy with with dust

Warmest Point:
Chahbahar 31°C

Coldest Point:
Ghorveh -5°C

Some cities of the worlb

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	24	Vienna	17
Istanbul	–	Moscow	–
Rome	21	Madrid	9
Athens	19	Abu Dhabi	29
London	7	Karachi	–
Paris	9	New Delhi	26
Frankfurt	10	Kuwait	26

Spain Eager to Contribute to Iran's Development Plan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Visiting President of the autonomous region of Galicia in Northwestern Spain, Manuel Fraga Iribarne, expressed Spain's willingness to assist Iran in implementing the Second Development Plan.

Iribarne made the remark in his meeting with the First Vice-President, Hassan Habibi, and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi here Wednesday.

Referring to the friendly ties between the two nations, Iribarne expressed Madrid's readiness for upgrading ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Vaezi said utilization of the two countries' potential capabilities and applying different mechanism including joint economic commissions will help upgrade mutual relations and increase Iran's non-oil exports to Spain and Galicia.

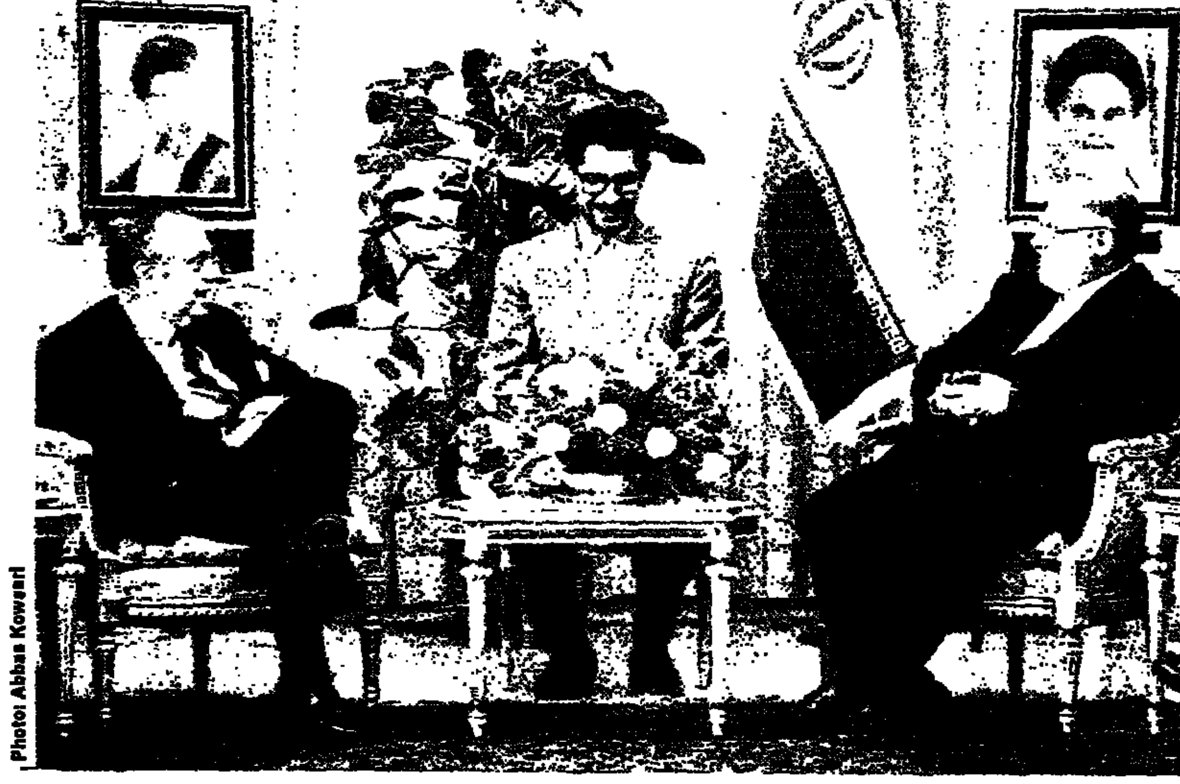


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

In the meeting the two sides expressed desire for strengthening bilateral cooperation in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Vaezi lauded Spain's effective role during its rotatory presidentship of the European Union.

Iribarne touched on Spain's potential capacities in fisheries, ship building and food industries and called for participation of Spain in the implementation of Iran's Second Development Plan.

During his stay here, Iribarne who is heading a 40-member delegation including 20 businessmen and 10 journalists, will inspect Iran's economic and industrial centers in Bandar Abbas, Isfahan and Qeshm Island.

French Opposition Socialists Might Renationalize Thomson

PARIS — The French opposition Socialist Party does not rule out renationalization of some strategic companies, and notably France Telecom and Thomson, party spokesman Francois Hollande said on Tuesday.

Each case would be studied on its merits, he said in an interview with the *Liberation* newspaper.

The center-right government has recommended that Thomson be sold to the French Lagardere Groupe which would then pass Thomson Multimedia on to Daewoo Electronics of South Korea in a highly-controversial deal here.

Up to 49 percent of France Telecom is also being privatized.

Hollande also said that he wanted the state "to resume authority over the distribution of water which is currently managed by monopolies" but "not necessarily through nationalization: other forms of control could be imagined."

He recalled that the Socialists' so-called neither-nor policy was a thing of the past. "In 1988, when we were returned to government, we said that we would neither privatize nor nationalize. But today we have entered a new period and our approach must be pragmatic."

But the Socialist Party did not expect to "renationalize all of the companies which have been privatized" and that it had not yet "thought out the ways" of returning France Telecom and Thomson to the public sector.

"That would not necessarily be done by acquisitiion of 100 percent of the capital," he said.

The socialists would no longer nationalize "companies in difficulty" but "public capital may be used to support innovative projects for which finance is not available."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 13)

EUROPEAN...

Association, also informed the Championship Committee that it had broken even financially, despite considerable expenses.

In a final assessment, the Championship Committee said there were two areas that could have been improved — the distribution of tickets and accreditation.

UEFA and the English F.A. also offered the benefit of their experience and assistance to the organisers of the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000.

The following is the distribution of UEFA profits among the 16 teams who competed in the 1996 European Championship Finals:

Germany	10.80 million Swiss francs (USD 8.5 million)
Czech Republic	9.90 million Swiss francs (USD 7.8 million)
England	7.65 million Swiss francs (USD 6.03 million)
France	7.65 million Swiss francs (USD 6.03 million)
Croatia	5.40 million Swiss francs (USD 4.26 million)
Portugal	5.40 million Swiss francs (USD 4.26 million)
Spain	5.40 million Swiss francs (USD 4.26 million)
Netherlands	5.40 million Swiss francs (USD 4.26 million)
Scotland	4.50 million Swiss francs (USD 3.55 million)
Bulgaria	4.50 million Swiss francs (USD 3.55 million)
Italy	4.50 million Swiss francs (USD 3.55 million)
Denmark	4.50 million Swiss francs (USD 3.55 million)
Switzerland	3.60 million Swiss francs (USD 2.84 million)
Romania	3.60 million Swiss francs (USD 2.84 million)
Russia	3.60 million Swiss francs (USD 2.84 million)
Turkey	3.60 million Swiss francs (USD 2.84 million)

(REUTER)

South Africa Asks UN to Pay for Its Zaire Role

PRETORIA - South Africa appealed to the United Nations on Tuesday to finance its participation in an international force proposed for Eastern Zaire.

Defence Minister Joe Modise told a press conference here that South Africa learned from playing a "minor (humanitarian) role" during the Rwandan tragedy of 1994, that peacekeeping operations were very costly.

"Naturally if the United Nations wants to initiate this process (in the great lakes region), it has to take the financial responsability," Modise said.

Speaking to journalists later, Deputy Minister of Defence Ronnie Kasrils said South Africa was ready to send "between 500 and 1,000 men" and provide technical assistance.

South Africa could provide transport, telecommunications and medical assistance for other Southern African Development Community (SADC) states providing troops to the mission, Kasrils said.

A South African delegation comprising defence and foreign affairs officials as well as a presidential representative will soon leave for Tanzania to discuss with other African states the creation of a great lakes force, he added.

"We are having a group going to Tanzania ... to consider exactly what are the objectives, the mission, the composition and obviously the question of who pays," the deputy minister said.

If South Africa is forced to pay for its peacekeeping contribution, President Nelson Mandela will "have to decide where he can find the money," Kasrils said.

Modise stressed that South Africa would not become involved in a mission "without the assistance of our friends in the region."

"We have no intention to become the policeman of the continent ... we are not the supermen of the region," he said.

South Africa's military budget was cut by 5 percent to 10.2 billion rand ($2.2 billion) in 1996.

Kasrils added that South Africa was investigating claims that arms were being smuggled out of the country to forces involved in the great lakes conflict.

"We try to get factual informations to crack down any illegal arm deals," he said. "we know that smuggling is taking place in every country and we want to be a clean country."

Replying to other rumors that a South African mercenary group, Executive Outcomes, is involved in the Zairean conflict, Kasrils said: "we heard this, but we have had no subtantial information."

The Zairean conflict, waged between government troops and mainly-Tutsi rebels, has made about 1.2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees vulnerable to starvation and disease.

(AFP)

Imelda Marcos Conviction Affirmed, but She Escapes Jail

MANILA — A special Philippine court on Wednesday ruled that Imelda Marcos, widow of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, must serve up to 24 years in jail following a 1993 conviction for corruption.

But Justice Francisco Garchitorena told AFP he did not order Marcos' immediate arrest because she could still file an appeal with the anti-graft tribunal or the Supreme Court.

He also said that based on the court's judgement, the former first lady would not try to abscond. "There is no indication that she has any intention of probably jumping bail," Garchitorena said.

"Since there is no indication of that fact, we have no justification in ordering her imprisonment pending the finality of judgement," he added.

(AFP)

Velayati, Camaro Discuss Developments in Islamic World

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Visiting Foreign Minister of Guinea, Lamin Camaro, and Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran discussed the recent developments in the Islamic world as well as Tehran-Conakry ties Wednesday.

Camaro, who is carrying a message for Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani from his Guinean counterpart, expressed satisfaction over the growing trend of mutual ties.

He voiced willingness of Guinean government for further expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all domains including political and cultural fields as well as in economy especially in the field of road construction.

Camaro, also head of the OIC's foreign ministers, called for expansion of Tehran-Conakry cooperation within the framework of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and at the United Nations.

Velayati called as successful the holding of Iranian trade and technical exhibitions in Conakry.

Pakistan's Caretaker PM Slams Bhutto's Allegation Against President

ISLAMABAD- Interim Prime Minister Malik Meraj Khalid Wednesday rejected as "baseless" deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto's allegation that President Farooq Ahmed Leghari had a role in her brother's murder.

"It is neither wisdom nor justice to start levelling baseless charges merely to avenge the dismissal of the governmnent," Khalid said.

Bhutto alleged Tuesday that Leghari, who sacked her last week, was involved in the September 20 murder of her estranged brother Murtaza in a police shootout in Karachi.

She also claimed that Leghari, her former ally, was behind a move to sell the state-owned United Bank Limited (UBL) to Saudi concern Basharahil earlier this year.

Bhutto said the president wanted to give the bank to Basharahil in order "to please his friends," but that she opposed the deal.

The controversial deal was scrapped later as the government did not accept the conditions proposed by Basahrahil.

Khalid, who replaced Bhutto after her ouster on Novemeber 5, defended the disssolution of the government and the National Assembly last week, saying the president did so within the constitution.

President Leghari accused the Bhutto government of corruption, nepotism, causing a breakdown of law and order, economic mismanagement, administrative irregularities, violation of human rights and responsibility for thousands of extra-judicial killings.

(AFP)



Man Stages His Own Kidnapping by Cutting Off Finger

TOKYO – A 39-year-old Japanese fashion designer is on a wanted list after staging his own abduction, sending his family threatening letters and a severed finger believed to be his, police said Wednesday.

Odajima disppeared from his home in Hayama on September 25. His family has since received a series of letters and phone calls demanding 50 million yen ($450,000) in ransom.

Police at first treated the case as a kidnapping. But they determined that it was a self-staged drama after finding Odajima was treated at a Tokyo hospital last Friday after severing a finger. (AFP)

Russian Police Trace AD-Killer

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia – "Young man seeks high-risk, well-paid job," read the small AD which attracted the attention of Nikolai, a 33-year-old Saint Petersburg resident.

He hired the man to kill his wife and mother-in-law in June so he could take over their apartment, for a promised payment of $6,000.

"After the murder we found the killer's number in the husband's diary," said police, who subsequently arrested the hitman.

"But the husband never paid up – he didn't have any money." (AFP)

UN Chief Urges: Save Refugees From 'Certain Death' in Zaire

ROME – The UN secretary-general steered the attention of the World Food Summit on the refugee plight in eastern Zaire on Wednesday, saying leaders have a duty to unite and aid people who otherwise "face certain death."

The impassioned appeal by Boutros Boutros-Ghali in the opening minutes of the five-day conference showed how much the Zaire crisis has given urgency to the proceedings.

Previously, conference planners encouraged keeping the meeting focused on the ambitious but non-binding policy goal: Reducing by half the number of estimated 800 million people around the world without adequate access to food.

"As this summit is taking place, over 1 million starving, frightened refugees are wandering helpless in the mountains and forests of eastern Zaire," Boutros-Ghali told delegates from 194 nations gathered at the main hall of the tightly guarded UN Food and Agriculture Organization

Fighting between rebels and Zairian military emptied camps of Rwandan and Burundian refugees, who are now completely cut off from international assistance.

Pope John Paul II, the first speaker at the conference, denounced the imbalance between the rich and destitute.

"We have to jointly seek solutions so that never again will there be hungry people living side by side with people in opulence ... such contrasts between poverty and wealth cannot be tolerated," he said, surrounded by rows of flags from every nation.

The pontiff, wearing white robes and sitting in a high-backed chair, also lashed out at the use of economic embargoes "imposed without sufficient consideration" and appealed for the West to ease the debt burdens that "weigh on the destinies" of poorer nations.

The Pope has often denounced sanctions as unfairly hurting common people - putting the Vatican at odds with the United States and other Western nations. (AP)

Earthquake in Southern Peru Kills Seven, 500 Hurt

LIMA – A strong earthquake hit the southern coast of Peru on Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring 300 other.

The earthquake shook the capital of Lima for a minute. Most of the damage was in the Pacific coast town of Nazca 290 miles (460 km) south of Lima and hospitals received a stream of injured, officials said.

The U.S. geological survey said the quake's magnitude measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and its epicentre was 65 miles (100 km) to the southeast of Ica.

"It's a major earthquake," said Geophysicist John Minch at the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado. He said the quake occurred at noon local time (1700 GMT).

The quake caused the collapse of several mines in Marcona, an iron mining center to the south of Ica, trapping four miners and injuring two others, the small miners association said in Lima.

Nazca is one of Peru's main tourist attractions for its mysterious pre-Inca lines in the desert that form patterns that can be seen only from the air. (Reuter)

349 Killed When Airliners Collide in Fireball Outside New Delhi



KHERI SANWAL, India (Nov. 12): Police stand amid the wreckage of the deadliest mid-air collision in aviation history near the Indian capital. The Saudia Airlines Boeing 747 jumbo, climbing after take off from New Delhi, slammed into a Kazakh cargo plane coming into land killing 351 people. (AFP PHOTO)

CHARKHI DADRI, India -- Masked against the stench of charred flesh, police walked for information across freshly plowed farmland Wednesday, looking for human remains and for clues into the mysterious in-flight collision of two airliners that killed 349 people.

Seven minutes after takeoff at dusk Tuesday, a Saudi airlines jumbo jet smashed into a Kazakstan airlines plane in its landing approach about 15,000 feet (4,500 meters) above fields of mustard and wheat, in the third worst aviation disaster in history.

Searchers found the flight data recorders of both planes, but so far only the cockpit voice recorder of the Kazak plane, said Yogesh Chandra, secretary of the Civil Aviation Ministry. The recorders could help investigators determine what caused the crash.

Officials of Kazakstan airlines said Wednesday only 37 people were on board their aircraft, two less than the airline reported Tuesday.

Doctors said no one could have lived through the collision that turned the two aircraft into twin fireballs and incinerated many of the passengers before they hit the ground.

"No living people were brought here. All were dead bodies," said R.S. Garg, chief of the Dadri government hospital, where two rooms had been converted into makeshift morgues. (AFP)

Lukashenko Rules Out Force to Resolve Feud With Parliament

MOSCOW – Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko on Wednesday vowed to press on with a controversial constitutional referendum but ruled out any use of force to resolve his feud with the former Soviet Republic's Parliament.

"It's true that there is a confrontation between Parliament and the president, but we won't resolve it with force," Lukashenko told deputies in the Lower House of the Russian Parliament, the state Duma.

Lukashenko was speaking a day after the head of the Belarus Central Electoral Commission, Viktor Gonchar, defied him by refusing to certify the results of the November 24 referendum, citing irregularities in early voting procedures.

Lukashenko, a former communist apparatchik who has adopted an increasingly authoritarian leadership style since his election in July 1994, wants constitutional changes to strengthen his powers.

Parliament, which has been engaged in a bitter power struggle with Lukashenko for months, has called for the presidency to be scrapped. (AFP)



MEXICO CITY, Mexico (Nov. 12): Mexico City firefighter arrive at the PEMEX facility where three gasoline storage tanks exploded November 11. Some 800 firefighters are working to control the balze which has killed one of their colleagues. Some 11,000 residents in the area have been evacuated as a precaution. (AFP PHOTO)

Iraqi Kurd Peace Talks Likely to Be Postponed

ANKARA — A new round of U.S.-sponsored peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurd factions scheduled for Friday in Ankara is likely to be postponed, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

News of the likely delay came a day after Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz held talks in Ankara and called for Turkey to withdraw its support for "U.S. interference" in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel said the Iraqi-allied Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has requested the delay before a second round of Kurdish peace talks aimed at consolidating a cease-fire in northern Iraq.

"The November 15 date for the meeting has not yet been settled. The KDP has asked for a delay of a a few days, to wind up their preparations," Akbel told reporters.

On Tuesday, Aziz said after talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller that "the main reason for the problem, the mess, is foreign interference, or in other words, U.S. interference."

"The U.S. interference is complicating things against not only Iraq but also Turkey," he said. "I hope we work together (with Turkey) according to what is to our benefit and what is not."

Ciller reiterated Turkey's support for Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty but acknowledged "some differences" between Ankara and Baghdad.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau and senior officials from the KDP and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) are due to reconvene here to work out differences between the rival Kurdish groups.

A battle erupted in late August as the KDP of Massud Barzani, backed by Baghdad forces, attacked Jalal Talabani's PUK and captured the Iraqi Kurd "capital" of Arbil.

After two months of fighting in which towns changed hands, the two Kurd groups declared a cease-fire on October 23 and pledged to seek a peaceful settlement to their disputes in the first round of Ankara talks on October 31. (AFP)

Bhutto Appeals to Supreme Court Over Dismissal, Leghari Expands Cabinet

ISLAMABAD -- Deposed Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto appealed to the Supreme Court on Wednesday against her sacking and decsribed the dissolution of her government as illegal and unconstitutional in a 42-page appeal.

Meanwhile President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, who sacked the Bhutto government on November 5, moved to strengthen the interim cabinet he set up last week, officials said.

In her appeal, Bhutto said new elections called on February 3 would be "contrary to the constitution" as they resulted from an "illegal" presidential order.

She said her petition should be heard and decided "well before the date of the elections."

Leghari inducted four new ministers to the cabinet late Tuesday raising to 16 the strength of the interim government led by Malik Meraj Khalid, a veteran politician and former National Assembly speaker.

Bhutto's appeal said the caretaker appointments, along with other measures taken against her and her detained husband, Asif Ali Zardari, showed the president did not intend to make a "fair appeal" or obtain a "fair verdict" from voters.

Leghari accused the Bhutto government of corruption, nepotism, causing a breakdown of law and order, economic mismanagement, administrative irregularities, violation of human rights and responsibility for thousands of extra-judicial killings. (AFP)

Croatian President to Rest on Doctors' Advice

ZAGREB - Croatian President Franjo Tudjman will take a short break from Wednesday on the advice of his doctors, a statement from the Croatian presidency said,

Tudjman would have a "routine" medical check-up during a "short rest", the statement said, without saying exactly how long the Croatian president would be out of action.

Tudjman, 74, is known as a sports lover, regularly playing tennis.

One of Tudjman's longstanding colleagues, Josip Manolic, said the president had enjoyed good health throughout the recent part of his political career.

"Since 1989, when he began his intensive involvement in Croatian politics, he has not had a single health problem." Manolic, a co-founder of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), told AFP.

Manolic left the HDZ in 1994 and set up his own party, the Independent Croatian Democrats.

However another source close to the president, who wished to remain anonymous, said he had heard "rumors since last summer of Tudjman's bad health."

The Croatian president is the oldest of the three Balkan leaders whose signatures on the Dayton Peace Accords last year ended the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic is 72 and Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic is 56. (AFP)

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WTO Report Says U.S. Must Keep Its Markets Open

GENEVA — The United States. the World's largest trading nation. must keep its markets open and resist pressures at home to take unilateral trade measures. a report by the World trade Organisation (WTO) said on Tuesday.

A liberal and predictable U.S. market will help maintain growth in domestic productivity and is also vital for the health of the international trading system. it said.

The review of U.S. trade policy. written by wto economists. was bound to spark lively debate by envoys to the 125-member trade watchdog at a two-day meeting due to end later in the day.

Commitments made by the United States under the 1994 Uruguay Trade Liberalisation Accord included a trade-weighted tariff reduction of some 35 per cent by 1999, the report said.

But Washington has continued with regional. bilateral and unilateral trade initiatives. and its multitrack approach including investigations under its 'section 301' Trade Law can be a source of tension within the multilateral system, it added.

"While an open, predictable world trading system continues to be crucial for the well-being of the U.S. economy. the converse is also true an open, predictable U.S. economy is crucial for the health of the world trading system." WTO said.

"It is therefore crucial that the United States and its partners utilise the system to maintain multilateralism as the key to future developments and discourage pressures for increased bilateralism or unilateralism," the report added.

Major trading partners. including Japan and the European Union. were expected to express concern in the closed-door talks over unilateral. retaliatory measures taken by Washington to force open foreign markets or punish Cuba. Iran and Libya.

The EU is on course to win establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel on November 20 to examine its complaint that the U.S. Helms-Burton Law punishing foreign companies in Cuba is extra-territorial and violates WTO Free Trade Laws.

But the WTO report on the United States. its first since 1994. said trade had become increasingly important in U.S. economic activity and had served as a 'counter-cyclical buffer'.

"In the early 1990s. exports cushioned the impact of the U.S. recession. demonstrating the importance for the United States that its producers have secure. liberal access to foreign markets. within a strong rules-based multilateral system."

The United States continues to be the world's largest single trading nation in both goods and services. with some 15 per cent of merchandise and 16 per cent of services' exports.

Trade represented 23.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995. up from 20.76 per cent in 1990. the report said.

"The European Union remains the largest market for U.S. merchandise exports but there is an ongoing shift in the direction of u.s. trade toward East Asia. which is now the most important source of imports," it said.

The services sector has assumed a greater share of U.S. output. accounting for about two-thirds of GDP. or some four times the share of manufactured goods. Services also accounted for 65 per cent of employment last year.

It was in the U.S. interest to keep and improve its open and competitive services sector. according to the report. This went especially for 'input' services such as finance. communications and transport. where productivity gains can significantly lower the costs in other sectors such as manufacturing.

The United States invests less as a share of GDP than its industrial counterparts. but prosperity is underpinned with very efficient resource allocation and high capital productivity. according to the 224-page report.

A major element in maintaining productivity was the openness of the U.S. economy. which helps to keep economic players under constant pressure to allocate resources efficiently.

"This also means that it is in the United States' own best interest to keep its markets securely open." it added.

The United States. in the first major trade policy statement since President Bill Clinton's re-election. on Monday issued a ringing statement of commitment to open markets and WTO rules.

Deputy trade representative Jeffrey Lang, speaking at the start of the WTO debate on the report, said: "The openness of our market and the increasing openness of foreign markets have undoubtedly contributed to the growth of U.S. trade and the overall robust health of the U.S. economy in recent years."

(REUTER)

U.S. Postpones Textile Talks With China

BEIJING — The United States' top textile negotiator. Rita Hayes. has postponed a trip to China for talks in the face of U.S. sanctions on Chinese textiles and a threat by beijing to retaliate.

"The visit (by Hayes) has been postponed." a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said on wednesday. She declined to give a reason.

"She is still prepared to have those discussions with the Chinese." the spokeswoman said by telephone. The negotiations were designed to extend the deadline on a bilateral textile agreement that was due to expire on December 31.

"We don't have a date as to when that will now occur." the spokeswoman said without giving further details.

On Sunday. China said it would suspend temporarily its imports of some U.S. textiles. farm goods. animal husbandry products. fruits and alcoholic drinks in retaliation for Washington's imposition of punitive charges on American purchases of Chinese textiles.

The temporary import ban would take effect on December 10.

In September. washington announced punitive charges against import quotas for Chinese textile goods. accusing China of using transshipments to avoid U.S. quota restrictions.

China said the sanctions were made without consultation and with no clear supporting evidence. adding it had no choice but to impose retaliatory sanctions.

The trade affected by washington's sanctions was estimated at USD 19 million — only a fraction of Sino-U.S. trade. which is now heavily in china's favour. The U.S. says its trade deficit with China last year was more than USD billion.

Sino-U.S. relations have been strained over the last year by a range of issues including trade. Taiwan. arms proliferation and human rights.

China and the U.S. have said they saw an improvement in relations since they narrowly averted a trade war over copyright piracy and exchanged diplomatic fire over Beijing's political rival Taiwan earlier this year.

The two sides are preparing for high level exchanges next year. including a possible visit to China by U.S. Vice President Al Gore and a summit between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

A visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher next week was expected to pave the way for these meetings.

(REUTER)

Stocks Bounce Back, Dollar Falls Further Against Yen

TOKYO — Share prices rebounded in early trading Tuesday on a report of stronger computer chip sales and another record-beating performance on wall street. the dollar continued to fall against the yen.

The Nikkei Stock average rose 126.28 points, or 0.6 percent, to 21,191.36 points in the first 30 minutes of trading. on Monday. the average lost 135.96 points. or 0.64 percent.

Semiconductor shares led the market higher. having received a shot in the arm from a U.S. industry report that orders of new chips jumped nearly 18 percent in october. lifting a key measure of the semiconductor industry to its highest level this year.

The new orders pushed the book-to-bill ratio for chips to 1.10 for north, central and South America, lifting the ratio above the crucial 1.0 mark - the dividing point between market growth and contraction - for the first time since last December.

The Tokyo Stock price index of all issues listed on the first section was up 2.64 points. or 0.17 percent. to 1,575.47. The Topix closed down 3.82 points. or 0.24 percent Monday.

Traders said the market was also encouraged by the Dow Jones industrial average's latest charge to new highs in overnight trading. The dow gained 35.78 to 6,255.60. topping Friday's record close and setting a new high for the fourth session in a row.

In currency trading. the dollar slipped further against the yen as the market continued to digest comments last week from a key architect of Japan's currency policy suggesting the dollar's recent period of strength against the yen was over.

The dollar has been sliding against the yen since last Thursday. when the U.S. currency tumbled about 2 percent on the comments from Eisuke Sakakibara. Head of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau.

In early trading in Tokyo. the dollar was quoted at 111.20 yen. down 0.44 yen from late Monday in Tokyo and also below its late new york level of 111.50 yen overnight.

The benchmark no. 182 10-year Japanese government bond was quoted at 101.77 yen. even with monday's close. Its yield was also unchanged at 2.750 percent.

(AP)

Geneva Reports Historic Loss of U.N. Jobs

GEVEVA — Geneva on Tuesday reported an unprecedented loss of jobs in international organisations based in the city. whose number dropped by 7.2 per cent in a year.

The Swiss city, which hosts the United Nations European Headquarters and many affiliated agencies including the World Trade Organisation (WTO). said the drop had been especially marked at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN).

The number of staff employed by 16 International Governmental Organisations in Geneva fell to 19,768 last March against 21,299 in March 1995, the statistical office for the Canton (State) said in a report.

"In one year. the decrease of 7.2 per cent is brutal by historic comparison," it said. It was the third consecutive year that a decrease had been registered.

"The movement touches most of the big organisations. but the drop is particularly important at CERN. it added.

The Organisations included the U.N. office. the International Labour Organisation (ILO). the World Health Organisation (WHO). the International Telecommunication Union and the WTO.

The report did not give a reason for the loss of jobs. but most U.N. agencies have imposed budget and hiring freezes. Smaller agencies, such as the U.N. volunteers programme. have been lured away to bonn and other cities offering better packages for expatriates. (REUTER)

Conference Aims to Boost Middle East Economies

CAIRO, Egypt — The Middle East Economic Conference opening Tuesday is based on the premise that peace is good for business and business is good for peace.

It's a message that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. who was to inaugurate the three-day meeting, wants to get across to the 3,500 business people. government officials and international financiers gathering in Cairo.

"The conference will benefit the interests of Egypt and other Arab countries," Mubarak said in a recent speech. "The Economic Conference will open the door to investments and attract businessmen from around the world."

The Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference follows similar meetings in Morocco in 1994 and Jordan last year and although it aims to reward the so-called 'peace partners' - Egypt. Israel. Jordan and the Palestinians - it comes amid serious strains in the U.S.-brokered peace process.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have stalled since May's election of the hard-line Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli Prime Minister. and all but a handful of Palestinian businessmen are boycotting to protest his policies.

Neither Syria nor Lebanon will send a delegation. and Iraq. Iran and Libya weren't invited.

Among Tuesday's scheduled speakers was retiring U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who spent four years pushing for Mideast peace. He was meeting the PLO's Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy in Cairo in a final effort.

The Americans. who pressured Mubarak to hold the conference despite arab anger over the peace process. believe it will help get things back on track.

Stuart Eizenstat. U.S. Commerce Undersecretary for Trade. told an Israeli audience Monday that the conference will contribute to peace by taking 'a positive step toward the goal of economic integration and regional stability and prosperity.'

The region's countries - from the oil-rich Persian Gulf to the still-struggling states of North Africa - sorely need to learn to cooperate with each other and the outside world.

Mideast nations have a combined gross domestic product approaching dlrs 600 billion. according to an International Monetary Fund study released Monday.

Yet the region - with nearly 300 million people - receives less than 1 percent of foreign investment. which is among the lowest rates in the world.

Trade between Arab nations and Israel is minuscule. And Intra-Arab Trade of dlrs 23 billion a year is just 7 percent of their total trade with the rest of the world.

The conference is aimed at boosting those numbers, not only by business deals but also by getting several regional institutions off the ground. including a dlrs 5 billion development bank.

It also will hear presentations from Egypt. Israel and other countries about telecommunications, road and manufacturing projects they want foreigners to invest in.

Some businessmen worry that the time is not right to press ahead with regional cooperation.

"On its face. the conference is (about) economics. but in truth it is political," said Israeli food manufacturer Gad Proper. "We need the politics straightened out, and that will pave the way for economic cooperation."

Arab businessmen are downbeat about the political situation. too. but believe the conference will be valuable.

"It is a massive venue for networking. and we can't afford to isolate ourselves from such an event." said Khalid Masri. a senior investment officer at the Arab Jordan Investment Bank.

(AP)

Book-To-Bill Ratio Rises Above 1.0 For first time this year

JOSE. California — Orders for new chips jumped nearly 18 percent in October. lifting a key measure of the semiconductor industry to its highest level this year.

The Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) reported Monday that the Book-To-Bill ratio rose to 1.10 in north, central and south America. the biggest market for computer chips.

The preliminary figure means manufacturers got dlrs 1.10 in new orders for every dlrs 100 worth of semiconductors they shipped. The ratio has been below 1.0 - the dividing point between market growth and contraction - since January.

The SIA on Monday revised September's Book-To-Bill ratio to .98 from .99.

"These strong numbers for new orders in the Americas market should reinforce our industry's cautious optimism for a solid fourth quarter." said SIA spokesman Douglas Andrey.

The organization's figures were the latest indication the Semiconductor Industry was emerging from a slump after last year's rapid growth.

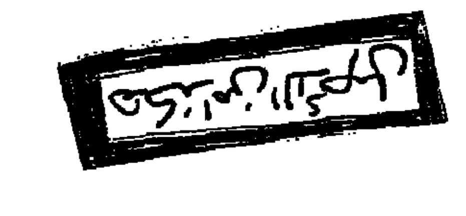
The peak came in october 1995. when the Book-To-Bill Ratio surged to 1.16 the lowest point came in March. when the Ratio sank to .79.

According to the SIA's recently released forecast. the chip market - falling an estimated 10.5 percent this year - should grow 7.4 percent next year and resume its double-digit rate in 1998. The SIA credited worldwide demand for chips in a wide range of electronic products. not just computers. for the expected gains.

In October. new orders for semiconductors grew to more than dlrs 3.73 billion. up from dlrs 3.17 billion in September. Last October's peak orders totaled nearly dlrs 4.88 billion.

Last month's billings rose 5 percent to almost dlrs 3.39 billion. up from dlrs 3.23 billion in September. October 1995 billings reached dlrs 4.22 billion.

The SIA's ratio measures revenue from semiconductors rather than how many units are sold. It has been hurt by dropping prices of memory chips this year as well as slower overall growth. (AP)



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'Blip' or Trend, Emptier Silos Unsettle World Food Picture

"You cannot visualize the coexistence of a country like China advancing in income and consumption at the same time as its agriculture, which supports 60 percent of the population, goes into permanent decline."

NEW YORK -- Decade by decade, the land has provided -- wheat fields, rice paddies, bulging silos of corn keeping pace with a growing world population. But now the grain harvests have leveled off, the people have not, and the world is left to wonder where its next century's meals will come from.

The blip in the upward slope of grain production in the 1990s has ready explanations: economics, politics and weather conspired to hold down global output.

But some specialists believe longer-range forces, from the Kansas Prairie to China's River Deltas, are also at work -- and the outlook is troubling.

Troubling enough, in Africa particularly, for the Food and Agriculture Organization to hold a global summit in Rome this week to search for new approaches to help poor nations grow, buy or otherwise get more food.

"We are in a crisis situation," FAO chief Jacques Diouf said.

His UN agency projects world agricultural production must expand by 75 percent by 2025 to match population growth. It's not off to a good start.

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New FAO figures show that the global grain harvest -- forecast at 1,821 million tons for 1996-97 -- will have increased by just 2.3 percent since 1990, while population was growing 10 percent.

Grain is the surest gauge of food supplies, since it provides most of man's calories, either directly or through grain-fed meat.

Because of the lag in production, grain prices rose and the world's buffer stocks of wheat, rice and other grains were drawn down. Reserves now stand at 277 million tons -- some 40 million below what the FAO considers safe to meet emergencies.

A mix of factors helped stunt the decade's crops: agriculture collapsed with the political system in the former Soviet Union; the U.S. and other governments began "de-subsidizing" farmers' grain surpluses; poor growing weather plagued America and Russia; Chinese grainland was giving way to factories and exploding cities.

Some see deeper causes, however.

Lester Brown of Washington's Worldwatch Institute maintains that fertilizers and high-yield grain varieties have been pushed to their limit in many places. And underground water sources, from Kansas and Colorado to Iran and India, are drying up.

"I think each year now it will become more difficult to rebuild grain stocks," Brown said.

Worldwatch sees China as a huge problem. Shrinking croplands, rising incomes and a growing middle-class appetite for meat -- an inefficient means for passing along the calories of grain -- have combined to turn China, almost overnight, into the world's no. 2 grain importer, behind Japan.

"It is only a matter of time until China's grain import needs overwhelm the export capacity of the United States and other exporting countries," Brown contended.

Others dispute his pessimism. A key FAO forecaster, Nikos Alexandratos, said Brown relies on shaky Chinese statistics.

Besides, he said, "You cannot visualize the coexistence of a country like China advancing in income and consumption at the same time as its agriculture, which supports 60 percent of the population, goes into permanent decline."

On the broader, global point, the World Resources Institute, a Washington think tank, finds some agreement among major studies that birth rates may slow enough to allow a plodding agriculture to keep up with demand.

(AP)

Teenager Sails Towards Record Books

PERTH, Australia -- Australian teenage solo sailor David Dicks is set for a berth in the record books as he nears the end of his nine-month round-the-world voyage.

Dicks, 18, from Perth, western Australia, said by radio phone Tuesday that he was about 400 nautical miles (708 km) from the Port of Fremantle, from whence he sailed on February 26.

He expects to enter Fremantle Harbor on Sunday, making him the youngest sailor to complete a circumnavigation alone and non-stop.

"I'm almost home and I can't wait to get there," Dicks told journalists who had flown out to greet him.

"I'll see you in Fremantle," he shouted, waving enthusiastically.

Thousands of western Australians are expected to converge on Fremantle, former venue for the America's Cup yachting event, to welcome back their latest nautical hero.

A parade is also planned through the streets of Perth on Thursday next week.

Dicks Voyage into the record books has been aided by Jon Sanders, a fellow western Australian sailor, who completed several solo circumnavigations in the 1980s.

Sanders helped the teenager to prepare his 10-meter (33-foot) sloop, seaflight, and offered radio advice at crucial stages of the epic voyage.

Dicks, who celebrated his 18th birthday during his journey, is the son of the late Dr. Harold Dicks, a pioneer of the Royal Australian Flying Doctor Service.

Fox "Attacks" Baby in South London

LONDON -- Fears about the large numbers of urban foxes who prowl around Britain's streets were inflated recently after a mother claimed that a fox had bitten her five-month old baby in the greenhouse of her south London home.

Elena Sheppard said that she found the fox in baby Philip's pram last Friday after hearing her child scream. The little boy's mouth was full of blood and there were what the mother described as "teeth marks" on his lips.

"Philip looked as if he had been attacked by a vampire. He was absolutely terrified. He just cried and cried and cried afterwards," she said.

Farmer and fox expert, R. Poole, said: "I have no doubt that the fox that bit the baby had every intention of making breakfast out of the child."

He added: "You cannot blame the fox for what happened -- it was doing what comes naturally to it -- killing."

But other fox experts said that city-dwellers should not fear the estimated 34,000 foxes which have made their home in built-up areas in Britain.

They insisted that there has never been a proven case of a fox biting a baby, and claimed that the injury was more likely to have been caused by an accidental scratch or by a cat.

Trevor Williams, the director of Wildlife Information Service, the fox project, said the injuries described were "totally inconsistent with a fox-bite", adding: "If you are bitten on the face by a fox, your whole face will blow up and go black and blue."

The baby was taken to hospital and treated with antibiotics after the incident last Friday, but had suffered no serious injury.

And Williams also brushed aside fears that foxes could spread rabies, which has been wiped out in Britain by a strict set of animal quarantine laws.

"Foxes have coexisted with humans in cities for a long time, and their diseases are all canine, so there is nothing you can really catch from them," he said.

(AFP)

Briton Changes His Name to Number Plate

LONDON -- Dave Parker could not afford to buy a personalized number plate, so he changed his name by deed poll to that of his car, and is now called Mr. "C 539 Fug", the mass-circulation *Sun* newspaper reported recently.

The 27-year-old car mechanic had a long-time dream of having a number plate with his name, or at least his initials, on his 11-year-old Talbot Samba.

But these number plates can cost thousands of dollars when they are auctioned or put on sale by the driving licensing authorities.

So dave took a cheaper option, and for only £25 ($41), changed his name officially from Dave Parker to "C 539 Fug".

"This was so cheap and easy, I just had to take the plunge. I've asked my pals to stop calling me Dave. I want to be called C or Mr. Fug. My middle name is 539," he told the *Sun*.

But the friend of "C", who had to apply for a new check book, credit card, driving license, has no intention of becoming Mrs. Fug.

(AFP)

Pope Reflects on Life, Love and War in Memoirs

VATICAN CITY -- Pope John Paul, in memoirs due out this week, says that as a young man he had no romantic relationships, dedicating himself instead to his love for literature and the theater.

He also tells how his experiences after the German invasion of Poland in 1939 galvanized him to enter the priesthood.

Excerpts of the book were published in Italy's two largest newspapers, *Corriere Della Sera* and *La Repubblica*. The pope gave advance copies to cardinals attending ceremonies marking his 50th anniversary as a priest on Sunday.

The book, called "*Gift and Mystery*", is the 76-year-old pope's reflections on the priesthood and the past 50 years since he was ordained in war-ravaged Poland.

As a handsome young man in his native Wadowice and later Krakow, Karol Wojtyla was a deeply religious person with a love for the theater and Polish literature and language.

But his definitive decision to enter the priesthood was taken in the early 1940s after the Nazis invaded Poland and sent many of its people to death camps. The pope escaped deportation by working as a manual laborer in a stone quarry.

Biographers concur that the pope had no romantic relationships as a young man in secondary school and university but he has rarely spoken or written about the subject himself.

"Maybe someone thought that if a young man with such clear religious inclinations did not enter the seminary (earlier) it was a sign that other loves or interests were at play," he writes, according to one of the excerpts in *Corriere Della Sera*.

"In fact at school I had many female colleagues and because I was involved in the school theater club, had numerous possibilities to meet people," he says in the Italian excerpts.

"That was not what was at issue. At that time I was consumed by passion for literature, particularly for dramatic literature, and the theater," he says.

Most biographers say that at least one of Karol Wojtyla's female classmates fell in love with him, however.

The pope recounts how his life was changed by the "apocalypse" of World War II and how he worked in the quarry to avoid deportation and continue his studies secretly.

"Being a manual worker, I knew what bodily fatigue meant," he says.

The pope says that while he was working in the factory he often asked himself why he was surviving the Nazi occupation.

"At any time I could have been picked up at home, at the quarry, at the factory and taken to a concentration camp. At times I asked myself: 'So many people my age were losing their lives. Why not me?' Now I know it was not just chance," he says.

The pope says it is precisely because God spared his life while death was all around him that he felt he owed a tremendous debt to people "of all nations and language" who were killed.

In 1942 he made a definitive decision to enter the seminary and studied for the priesthood secretly in the Krakow archbishop's residence until the end of the war. He was ordained a priest on November 1, 1946.

"The tragedy of the war helped me put a new slant on the value and importance of (my) vocation. Faced with the spreading of evil and the atrocities of the war, the sense of the priesthood and it mission in the world became ever more clear to me," he writes.

The pope's 1995 book "*Crossing the Threshold of Hope*", which was published commercially, became an international best-seller. The new memoirs are due to be released by the Vatican's publishing house on Friday.

(Reuter)

In Mud, Blood and Gas, He Wanted to Die

During one German barrage, a grenade landed in his trench. "There was no time to throw it back, so we tried to take cover,"

PARIS -- As shells crashed around him, a Parisian kid stuck in the rat-infested trenches of the Champagne region decided he'd had enough with World War I. He'd piled up enough bodies of comrades and had enough whiffs of mustard gas.

"I was so depressed. I wanted to kill myself," 97-year-old Charles Rosenzweig remembers.

Recently the country most deeply marked by the great war joined the world in celebrating Armistice Day, the 1918 signing in a train car in eastern France.

Rosenzweig, who hopes to make it to 1998 for the 80th anniversary, is grateful the Americans came in the final months to help his army, exhausted by a war of attrition.

"They came as if they were here for the Olympic Games," said the former pharmaceutical salesman. "They had great equipment; they were like sportsmen."

Of 8.4 million French mobilized for war, 1.3 million died and 3.6 million, including Rosenzweig, were wounded. French troop losses were one-tenth of the war's entire estimated toll. The United States lost 116,000 troops.

The war also left 1 million French widows, more than half with children.

Town squares in France have long lists of war dead etched in stone, and under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris every evening, veterans gather at the memorial for the unknown soldier.

"It was horrible. It was inhuman," Rosenzweig said of the muddy trenches where night and fog left him guessing where the German shells would land.

"The rain, the cold, the rats -- there were so many. They were everywhere," said Rosenzweig, sitting in his bedroom filled with pictures from the war, including one of him as a fresh-faced recruit suited up for the front.

"We were like rats ourselves," said Rosenzweig, remembering how he stacked the bodies of fallen comrades in grain trucks and dug trenches with "a pick as big as me."

It was slow, excruciating trench warfare that incinerated much of France and Germany's youth at Verdun, the Somme, the Ardennes and the Champagne regions.

Rosenzweig was in charge of signaling other trenches in Morse Code with flashes of light, or firing colored flares to tell artillery teams when to advance or hold their fire.

But artillery gunners often ignored or didn't get the message. "They shot us in the butts," he said angrily, adding that "friendly fire" killed some comrades.

During one German barrage, a grenade landed in his trench. "There was no time to throw it back, so we tried to take cover," he said.

Too late. Shrapnel from the blast ripped his hand, and despite surgery, the gash remains and his middle finger is bent and frozen.

Then there was the poison gas. "It was caustic, toxic, it burned your face, your eyes, your hands," said Rosenzweig.

President Jacques Chirac last year ordered Legion of Honor medals for all remaining World War 1 veterans. Rosenzweig proudly showed his, along with the Croix de Guerre medal for leading his platoon in an attack after his sergeant died.

Like many elderly French, Rosenzweig has never forgiven the Germans: "I don't like them. They've bothered me my whole life."

During World War II, Rosenzweig, born to a Catholic mother and raised as a Christian despite his Jewish name, managed to change his name to Rosay to avoid deportation to Nazi death camps.

"The worst thing is, there are still wars!" he said. "It will stop when the world explodes." (AP)



In Mud, Blood and G
He Wanted to Die

TEHRAN TIMES

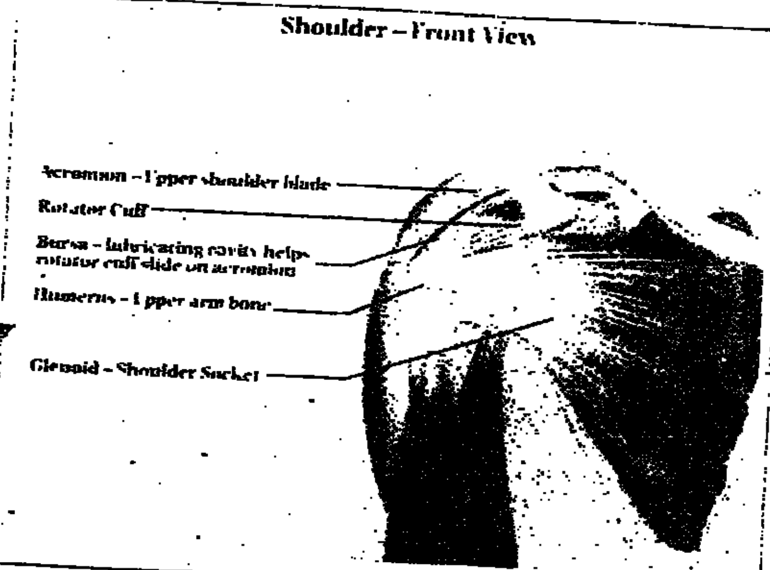
NOVEMBER 14, 1996







Does Your Shoulder Hurt?



Doctor, my shoulder really hurts. I'm not able to lift it. What happened? Will my shoulder ever feel good again?

Have you ever asked these questions? Or may be, you have a friend who did. Pain in the shoulder is often due to Rotator Cuff problems. But the point is, can it be cured completely.

With proper care and treatment, yes. Your rotator cuff (the shoulder's active anchor) may be injured, but it sure can be healed.

Your shoulder, being the most mobile joint, is also highly prone to injury. The rotator cuff is a powerful team of muscles and connecting tendons that attach your upper arm to your shoulder blade, besides assisting the large muscle covering your shoulder (Deltoid Muscle) with all your movements.

A healthy rotator cuff, with its muscles and tendons, holds the upper arm bone (humerus) in your shoulder socket (glenoid) giving your shoulder strength, flexibility and control. It helps you to reach, throw, push, pull and lift. When your rotator cuff is damaged, even simple movements become impossible.

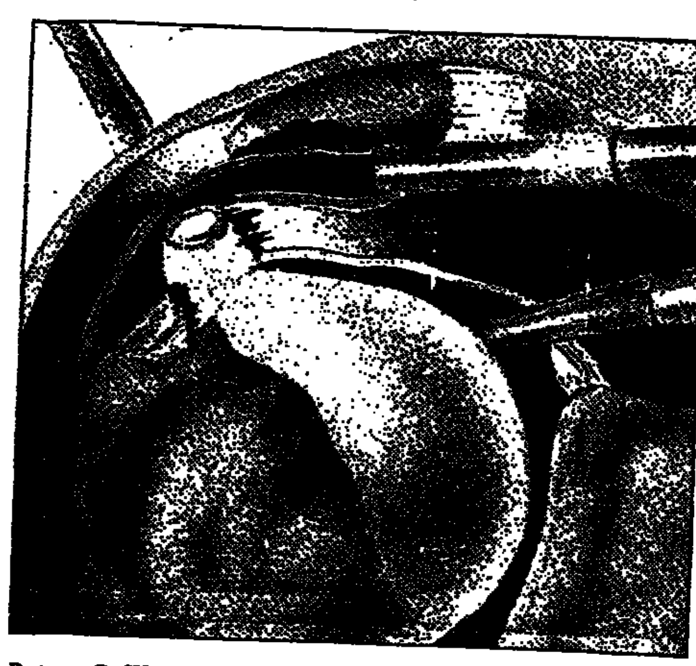
A rotator cuff injury could be due to a variety of reasons such as a sudden fall, strenuous exercise or sports or even a friendly game of cricket. Ordinary activities such as working in the garden or cleaning a closet, could also trigger pain in your rotator cuff tendons. And the older and weaker one gets, the muscles and tendons become more prone to injury. It is therefore better, to exercise daily. Regular exercise of the joint and their range of movements is useful in detecting rotator cuff problems.

Pain is your first and most obvious clue that something is wrong with your shoulder. If your shoulder hurts too much, it is better to rest initially, and keep your shoulder still. Applying ice or a cold pack to your shoulder, is most often helpful in reducing inflammation and pain. But if the pain persists, it is better to go to your doctor, who will decide what the problem is. Once it has been diagnosed as a rotator cuff problem, you might wonder what the actual complications. The rotator cuff is vulnerable to tendon damage or inflammation (tendinitis) due to various causes, including irritation (overuse), pinching (impingement), calcium deposit (calcification) and splitting (tears). Any of these conditions could make your shoulder, weak, tender and painful.

A thorough orthopaedic evaluation should be made. This includes an analysis of your health history and daily activities, examining the shoulder and conducting tests to pinpoint the cause, type and extent of your injury. Depending on the nature of the damage, the treatment may involve either non-surgical care, surgical care or both. It is better not to lose time, as early corrective treatment is known to give good results. Neglect, might result in stiffness, pain or arthritis at a later stage. Your orthopaedic suregeon will determine the best way to reduce your pain and heal your rotator cuff problems. In any case, proper follow-up exercise and learning to move correctly will form a vital part of your rehabilitation.

Arthroscopy is the latest procedure in diagnosing and treating a joint injury. Unlike other methods of diagnosis, arthroscopy allows the doctor to see and work inside your joint. The arthroscope, a pencil-shaped lighting and lens system (similar to the laprascope), is inserted into your shoulder joint, through tiny incisions that are smaller than a button-hole. The arthrcscope has miniature CC cameras at the end, which relay an image to the TV monitor. This facilitates your doctor to conduct a thorough inspection of your joint, and carry out corrective procedures such as making more space for tendon movement or repairing tears. As a diagnostic tool, the arthroscope is far more effective than other conventional means.

Rotator cuff surgery is often successful in treating impingement problems, calcium deposits or a complete tear that will not otherwise heal. Arthroscopic surgery is the best option for treating most joint problems. Nagging pain due to pinching (impingement) lesion, usually caused by repetitive shoulder activities, such as sports or jobs involving overhead reaching, can be successfully treated by arthroscopic suregery, without opening the joint. However, not all rotator cuff problems are amendable to arthroscopic surgery.



A Rotator Cuff Tear could be due to various reasons. Even a seemingly harmless or tricky fall, can cause partial or complete tearing of the rotator cuff, resulting in shoulder pain, weakness and loss of normal movement. The symptoms would also include not being able to lift the arm sideways without support. So it is necessary that if a rotator cuff problem is suspected, a

(To be cont'd)



THOUGHT

It is reported that Abu Abd Allah [Imam Sadiq], peace be with him, said that Jesus, peace be with him, said: The affairs of this world and those of the other world have gotten hard. But the affairs of this world are hard because there is nothing of this world at which you may grasp that some sinner has not grabbed first, while the affairs of the other world are hard because you do not find helpers to help you toward it.

(Kafi, Vol. 8, P. 144)

PRAYER

Noon	11:49
Evening	17:19
Dawn (tomorrow)	05:05
Sunrise (tomorrow)	06:41

Pig Hearts to Be Transplanted to Humans

WASHINGTOM — Within a year, a pig heart will be transplanted to a person to test if the swine organ can serve as a temporary and potentially permanent replacement, a researcher said.

Doctor Jeffrey Platt, an immunologist from Duke University in North Carolina, made the announcement recently at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The first use of pig hearts will be temporary, he said, enabling patients to live for a few weeks or months while they await permanent transplantation of a human donor heart.

"What we learn from doing the operations will enable us to then use pig hearts for permanent transplantation into humans," Platt said.

Transplanting animal organs into humans has failed to work in the past, but Platt and his colleagues have used genetic manipulation to improve their chances for success.

By implanting a human gene in a pig organ, Platt said, he can suppress production of sugars that identify the pig flesh as a substance foreign to a human immune system.

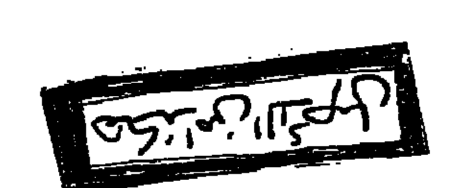
Working with pig hearts and baboons, the Duke researchers have done cross—species transplants that have functioned for more than a month.

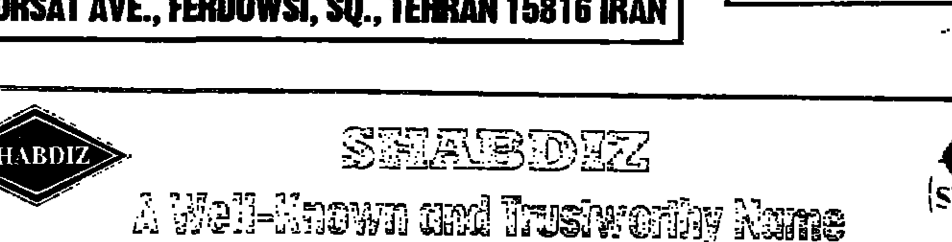
"Under normal conditions, our bodies would reject a pig's heart within minutes," Platt said. "Going from minutes to weeks or months is exciting because it shows we no longer have a fundamental immunity problem to deal with, but just a technical problem."

Although 40,000 Americans are candidates for heart transplantation each year, only about 2,300 get transplants because of the limited supply of human donor hearts, Platt said.

Pigs could be an excellent source of organs for those who now go without transplanted human organs, he added.

(AFP)





Engineer Mahdi Bakhshandeh, the managing director of Shabdiz Trading Institute, in an interview elaborating on the institute's activities said, "Shabdiz' export products are known to all of the consumers inside and outside of the country."

He said that Shabdiz Institute has started exporting its products since 1990 adding the institute has taken major strides toward the country's self-sufficiency.

He went on saying that Shabdiz Institute is active mainly in exporting the green kernel of pistachio as well as white walnut. Most of its products are exported to Sweden and Switzerland. Shabdiz has also 2 branches in Germany and Dubai and its export products have been extremely welcomed by the foreigners.

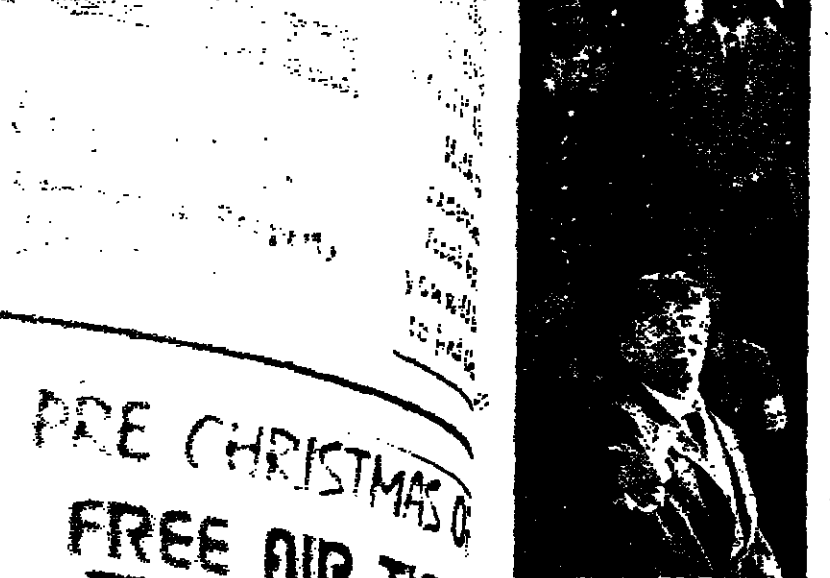


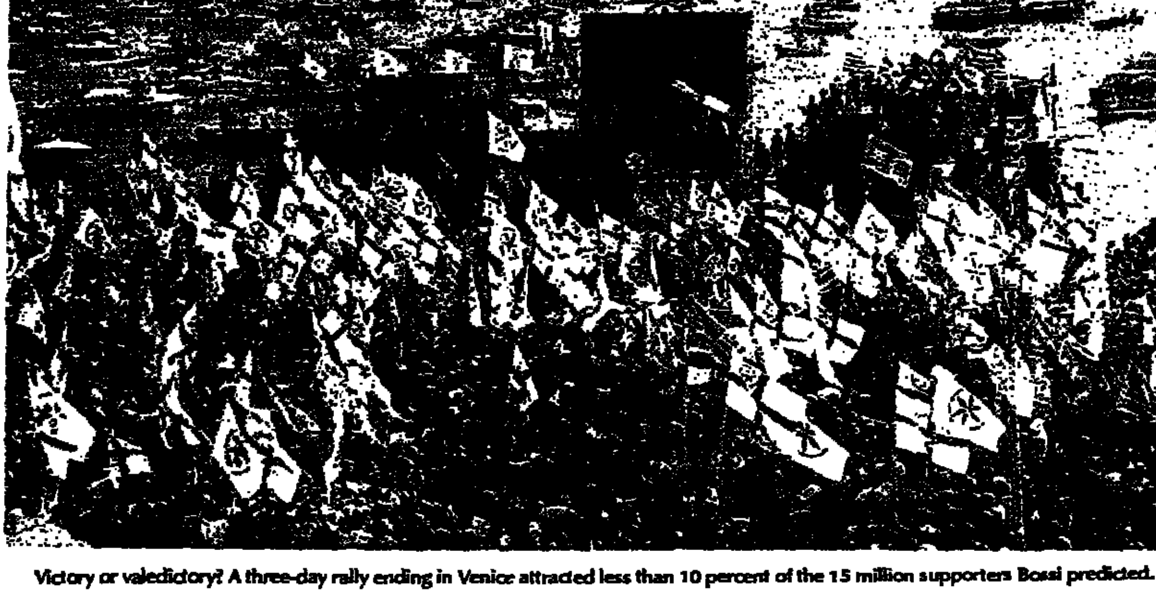
The managing director of Shabdiz Trading Institute pointed out that we have made every effort to package our products according to the sanitary principles and national standards of Iran so that our products are welcome more than before in foreign countries.

At the end, he expressed his gratitude to the officials of Qazvin Regional Standard and Industrial Researches General Office and Civil Aviation Organization (C.A.O) and said that the products of Shabdiz are exported with four kinds of quality, AA, A, B, and C.

The Push to Split Italy

Umberto Bossi's secessionist movement has yet to gain critical mass, but don't count him out too soon


SYMBOL: Bossi tosses Po River source water into the sea


Victory or valedictory? A three-day rally ending in Venice attracted less than 10 percent of the 15 million supporters Bossi predicted.

Even when he is trying to be charming, Umberto Bossi is aggressive and slightly menacing. Roused, he is a crude, rampaging street fighter. Having boasted that "millions and millions" would take part in his three-day spectacle of ritual and rallies to celebrate the breakaway from Italy of the "federal and sovereign" Republic of Padania, he was enraged and embarrassed to find that his stage army had scarcely totaled 130,000 over the mid-September weekend.

At the day-after press conference in Milan, Bossi, the leader of Italy's secessionist Northern League, dug deeply into his rich store of invective. Journalists were lambasted as "tricksters and liars" for having underestimated participation by more than a factor of 10. And even though television pictures and independent estimates told a different story, Bossi would not be shaken from his shameless estimate that 1.5 million northern Italians had turned out to endorse his separatist message.

Nobody should be surprised by Bossi's mendacity. His regard for the truth has been casual throughout the 10 years in which he has built the league into the greatest threat to the unity of the Italian state since it was founded 126 years ago. The biggest illusion is at the heart of his secessionist enterprise — that a majority of northern Italians want to belong to a breakaway state that would take its place as an independent member of the European Union, embracing a single European currency and claiming its economic birthright as one of Europe's most prosperous regions.

A poll published by the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* before the independence rally showed that a scant 13 percent of the league's own supporters favor such a giant leap. Although this hard core would be largely confined to league strongholds in Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto, Bossi, 55 , was not deterred from claiming sovereignty over several more northern regions in the independence constitution proclaimed in Venice. Padania's putative borders have crept to within 100 km of Rome.

But there is also a dark side that encourages a comparison with the strategy of Mussolini, which culminated in the collapse of the political system after the March on Rome by his Fascist forces in 1922. There is an implied threat of violence behind the league's plans to start enrolling volunteers for its national guard within a few days. Will the green-shirted guard be used to enforce the declaration of independence that the league says will be automatic if the government does not negotiate a peaceful secession within 12 months? Even more unpleasant are the blatant attacks on southern Italians in much of the league's propaganda. The movement does, as an opponent put it, seem to be "an insult to history and an insult to reason."

These are the words of Gianfranco Fini, the young leader of the National Alliance, a party drawn from Italy's former neofascist groups. The alliance's rival Italian-unity rally in Milan drew a turnout of 150,000, confirmation of Fini's emergence as the man to be reckoned with on the right.

However, Bossi is far from finished, because the resentments that grip so many of his supporters still fester. They enabled the league to win 10.4 percent of the national vote in the general elections last April and an impressive 30 percent to 40 percent in northern provinces.

Although communism's fall and the anticorruption investigations by Milan magistrates have swept from the scene the top men of Italy's old political class, northerners see little prospect that the new establishment in Rome will lighten one of the heaviest tax burdens in Europe or reform public services and the inefficient bureaucracy. The south feels like an albatross to northerners, resisting economic development and soaking up northern taxes to sustain organized crime and a welfare-dependent culture. Bossi has articulated these essentially economic grievances in language that is hostile and vulgar, and not so much delivered as hurled.

Italian politics is about accommodation, not confrontation. "As of tomorrow, I am ready for dialog," said Premier Romano Prodi on the night of Bossi's secession. Fearful of the popular wave sustaining Bossi, the main parties on both left and right had been leaning toward endorsing a federal redesign of the state -- only to find that Bossi, encouraged by better-than-expected results in the April elections -- had moved on to secession. Some analysts believe this is purely a bargaining position to be abandoned when the other parties are ready to buy him off with actual federal reform. This assumption will soon be tested in what looks likely to be an enthralling struggle between Bossi and the established order. Although many politicians are talking about reforms, there is little evident consensus within the governing center-left majority about what federalism should mean. The opposition parties are equally divided. Much talk can be expected, but many say there will be little real action — certainly not enough to satisfy Bossi and possibly even his more moderate supporters.

His strategy seems to be to provoke the state into imprisoning him for incitement to illegal acts and crimes against the constitution, to seek martyrdom as a way to stir protest in the streets and thus see how far the country's neurotic democracy can be bullied into making concessions. The authorities seem to be cooperating; last week they raided the league's Milan headquarters, allegedly in search of "anticonstitutional" material.

Italy is far from a Yugoslavia in the making. Still, Bossi may not be a leader in decline, despite the apparent failure of his independence farrago. If the politicians in Rome fail to deliver coherent federalist reform, he could yet have 1.5 million massed along the Po for Padania's final declaration of independence next year.

(Courtesy the Time)

CIA May Have Been Connected With Drug Ring

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is being investigated for possible links with a drug ring that allegedly was responsible for the 'crack' cocaine epidemic which swept the country's minority inner cities during the 1980s, resulting in thousands of young addictions and a sharp rise in the murder rate.

San Francisco: Thirteen years ago, frogmen laden with 181 kilograms of cocaine and tens of thousands of dollars in cash, were caught swimming into Hunter's Point, a poor neighborhood on the eastern side of this city.

The incident was the first public clue that San Francisco had become a major center for the international trade in 'crack', a cheap and powerful variety of cocaine. But the significance of the San Francisco connection was unknown until August 1996.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Justice Department and the Intelligence Committee of the House of Representatives recently announced a new probe into possible CIA connections to a drug ring that allegedly sparked the 'crack' cocaine epidemic which ravaged mainly black and Hispanic inner cities for much of the 1980s.

The probes are the direct outcome of a three-part report published in August 1996 in the *San Jose Mercury News*. It explained how Juan Norwin Meneses Cantarero, a Nicaraguan, used a number of houses in the San Francisco suburbs of Pacifica and Burlingame, to mastermind a major drug-trafficking operation whose proceeds went to the Nicaraguan 'Contras'.

The series has caused a major uproar here and in Washington, where the Congressional Black Caucus has pressed successfully for new investigations to determine to what extent the CIA knew about or was involved in the operation.

'If that story is true, it is earth-shattering,' said the Rev. Jesse Jackson on his CNN [Cable News Network] public affairs program 'Both Sides'. 'It indeed is treason.'

The crack epidemic of the 1980s did not only result in the addiction of thousands of youths and young adults, but it is also seen as responsible for the sharp rise in the murder rate of many inner U.S. cities as rival street gangs fought to gain control over distribution of the new drug.

Gary Webb, the series' author, says that the drug pipeline overseen by Meneses funneled cocaine from Colombia, via El Salvador and other Central American points, to the United States, and then to such gangs as the Crips and the Bloods in Los Angeles.

The proceeds went in the other direction, to Costa Rica and Honduras, to help fund the CIA-backed 'contras' whose nine-year war against the Sandinista government formed one of the central elements of the foreign policy of former President Ronald Reagan.

Charges that the Contras were funded in part by drug-smuggling operations are not new. They were first reported by the Associated Press in 1984. The Reagan administration itself accused associates of former anti-Sandinista leader Eden Pastora of involvement in drug-smuggling out of Costa Rica after he broke with the main CIA-backed group, the Fuerza Democratica Nicaraguense (FDN).

At the same time, however, the administration defended the FDN from charges of drug-trafficking. In a letter to a California senator in September 1996, CIA director John Deutch noted that the agency investigated the charges in 1988 and found that it 'neither participated in nor condoned drug trafficking by Contra forces'.

But the *Mercury News* report points directly at the FDN and the role played by at least some of its civilian leadership in fueling the crack epidemic in the U.S. West Coast.

Meneses' key contact, according to Webb, was a drug dealer named Oscar Danilo Blandon Reyes, the son of a wealthy Managua Slumlord, who fled here when the Sandinistas came to power in 1979. Blandon, in turn, employed Ricky 'Freeway' Ross, a top Los Angeles crack dealer who is currently awaiting sentencing on a federal drug conviction.

In the San Francisco area, according to the *Mercury News*, Meneses worked with unsuspecting Republicans and Nicaraguan exiles through groups like United Support Against Communism in the Americas which promoted the FDN.

In Central America, Meneses worked with Col. Enrique Bermudez, the FDN's military chief based in Honduras, according to the *Mercury News*. Bermudez, who was handpicked for the job by the CIA, was gunned down in Managua shortly after the Sandinistas were defeated in the 1990 elections.

Blandon, who also had close connections with Bermudez, has testified that he bought arms from a Los Angeles man named Ronald Lister who claimed to be working for the CIA.

Yet another Meneses contact was Marcos Aguado, a Nicaraguan who worked for the Salvadoran Air Force at Ilopango Air Base. Aguado, who has been identified as a CIA agent by several sources, reportedly supplied weapons to the FDN.

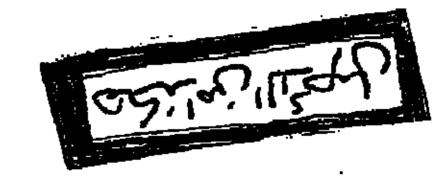
The same airport, which was controlled by Air Force Gen. Rafael Bustillo, was used for smuggling cocaine northwards, according to Celerino Castillo, an agent for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), who told Webb he first reported the smuggling operation in 1985. Ilopango was also the hub of the Contra-supply operation run out of the White House by Reagan's National Security Council in what became known as the Iran-Contra affairs.

While cited in 45 separate federal drug investigations, Meneses

(Contd on Pg. 14)

What's your pleasure?!

(New statistics show that drug use by American youth rose dramatically during the '90s)



Russians Try to Come to Terms With Leprosy

ZELYONAYA DUBRAVKA, Russia — When strange lumps first appeared on Russian pensioner Vera Prokopeva's body, she had hardly even heard of leprosy, let alone thought that she might have it.

More than a year later, she has reconciled herself to life as one of Russia's some 1,000 lepers, set up a temporary home in one of the country's four leprosy clinics in this secluded village, 80 km (50 miles) north of Moscow.

Gone are the days when lepers wore bells to single them out from healthy people or, as in one extreme case reported in Japan hundreds of years ago, were gathered together and buried alive.

Prokopeva, 56, is one of the luckier ones. She expects to be well enough to go home in about two years. Some of the other 29 lepers eking out a humble existence in the run-down clinic at Zelyonaya Dubravka will never leave.

"I realized I'd got leprosy very late on. My face looked horrible, all red and lumpy, and I had no idea what it was," Prokopeva said, sitting on one of the few seats in good repair in the clinic's study and library.

"When I found out what it was, I didn't get too upset because I didn't really know what it was all about. I'm not panicking now either because I know I'm going to be going home."

Prokopeva's dream is to return to her family in the mining community of Vorkuta in Russia's Arctic. She has already been back once, but her forehead and cheeks are still covered with ugly lumps which make her look permanently bruised.

"I don't know how I got this," she said. "They say someone once had it in a region near my home 15 years ago, but I am the only one who has had it since then. Goodness knows where it came from."

Gone are the days when lepers wore bells to single them out from healthy people or, as in one extreme case reported in Japan hundreds of years ago, were gathered together and buried alive.

But the disease which stalked Europe after it was brought to the region after the Crusades, still had a stigma attached to it long into the 20th century. Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered the clinic moved from Moscow to Zelyonaya Dubravka in 1936 for fear of the disease spreading.

Nikolai Goloshchapov, the 61-year-old head of the clinic, says there are from 12 to 15 million lepers in the world. About 4.2 million are registered in India and the disease remains a problem in China and parts of South America.

Leprosy is a progressive disease caused by a bacterium closely related to the one which causes tuberculosis. The infection attacks skin and nerves, causing blotches and lumps, and can cause numbness, paralysis and ultimately deformity.

It is contagious but much harder to catch than was once widely believed.

"You have to live closely with someone over a long period to get leprosy. You have to eat, drink and sleep with them," Goloshchapov said in his cramped office.

He said Russia had between 1,010 and 1,015 cases, more than half registered in a clinic in the southern region of Astrakhan. Other clinics are in the southern city of Kuban and in Irkutsk in Siberia.

From eight to 11 new cases of leprosy are reported in Russia each year, but modern medicine makes it possible to halt the progression and allow most patients to go home within six months to three years.

"Using our own medicines, we usually take a maximum of three years to treat people. Then they go home and come back once a year or once every two years. Then they continue being treated and monitored for life," Goloshchapov said.

"Leprosy is gradually dying out here."

He was thankful that the Health Ministry was still paying for the clinic at a time when many institutions and workers were not being paid or funded, but said he had no money to develop new medicines.

There is less reason for optimism for the patients who expect to spend the rest of their life in Zelyonaya Dubravka.

Pyotr Podkovin arrived in the clinic when he was 17. Fifty-five years later he is still there, living in a single room with his wife and fellow leper Raya, whom he met at the clinic and married 50 years ago.

"I'm quite happy here. I get paid for work in the library, I have my plot of ground to look after," Podkovin said.

But pointing to his feet with gnarled and his curled hands, he added: "I just wish my feet did not hurt so much, they have been getting more painful recently."

One sadness for Pyotr and Raya is that they never had children — for a long time that was banned for lepers. New laws allow them to have children but babies are taken away at birth until the mother is cured.

Podkovin, who has had leprosy since he was 10, was captured at the age of 17 in the western city of Smolensk by Nazi soldiers during World War II and put in hospital ready to be taken to Germany.

His sister rescued him from the hospital with the help of Russian doctors and they hid in cellars for months before the Germans withdrew and Pyotr was able to go to Zelyonaya Dubravka.

One sadness for Pyotr and Raya is that they never had children — for a long time that was banned for lepers. New laws allow them to have children but babies are taken away at birth until the mother is cured.

"I'll be here for good now. I don't want to leave and I have nowhere to go anyway," Podkovin said.

Another long-term resident is 56-year-old Yevdokiya Kurbatova. Bent over by her illness, hobbling painfully on deformed feet, she shuffles slowly along the long and bare corridors between her room and the kitchen.

Fondly known as Dusya, she proudly shows reporters her portrait as a young girl, before the leprosy dug dark craters in her face below her listless eyes.

"It's okay here. They treat me well here. I have no one else left in life. I'll see my days out here," she said. (Reuter)

Family Probed Over Rape of 23 Children

LILLE, France — Nine members of a French family, including a grandmother, are being held in investigative custody on suspicion of rape and sexual abuse of 23 children in the family, police said recently.

"It's horrific," a policeman commented of the alleged abuse of the children, aged three to 15.

A magistrate in Boulogne-sur-Mer in northern France launched a formal probe into the four couples and the grandmother on Friday on suspicion of "mistreatment and rapes, sexual attacks and incitation of minors to debauchery".

The grandmother, in her 60s, was suspected of leading the abuse of her grandchildren along with her four married children. The family, from a poor background, lived in the northern port of Calais.

The magistrate was investigating allegations that the adults organized parties in the evening over recent months at which they watched pornographic videos before sexually attacking their sons, daughters or grandchildren.

The nine, whose names have not been released, were placed in custody in four prisons in the region. Another couple were released from detention on Friday but would be investigated for failing to report a crime.

The suspected paedophile ring was uncovered during the summer when seven of the children, taken into care by social services, accused their father of abuse. Their allegations led to probes of the other adults.

France is seeking to tighten legislation on child sex abuse, shocked by the deaths of two eight-year-old Belgian girls at the hands of a paedophile gang in neighboring Belgium. (Reuter)

BURMA: The stairway to heaven is narrow and steep, and it climbs a 300-foot lava plug crowned by Buddhist temples. The plug rises from the slope of Mount Popa, where thousands of pilgrims flock each May to a festival honoring a multitude of terrestrial spirits called nats. Burma's Buddhists have a healthy respect for the nats, who bestow favors on those who honor them and inflict punishment on nonbelievers. (Courtesy National Geographic)



Europe "Gene Bean" Row Spreads With Vienna Protest

VIENNA — European protests against genetically-modified soybeans from the United States gathered momentum recently as environmental activists occupied the office of Austrian Health Minister Christa Krammer.

A Greenpeace protester, speaking by telephone from inside Krammer's office, told Reuters that 30 campaigners had entered the building at 9:30 a.m. on Monday and would continue their sit-in into the evening after talks with the minister proved fruitless.

Demonstrators earlier abseiled down the Health Ministry, a modern building on the edge of Vienna's historic center, to unfurl a huge banner with the slogan: "Our health is not worth a bean to Frau Krammer. Stop genetically manipulated soya."

In Vevey, Switzerland police dispersed three dozen Greenpeace activists who staged a roof protest at the headquarters of Nestle, the world's biggest food company. They wanted Nestle to distance itself from the controversial beans.

But Krammer and Nestle stuck to their guns. The Austrian health minister refused to slap an import ban on the soya, despite pressure from environmentalists, shopkeepers and some politicians who have raised fears for consumer safety.

"(Krammer) arrived like a whirlwind at lunchtime. We spoke with her for an hour but there was no rapprochement and we have drawn the conclusion that she is hopelessly overstretched in this matter," Greenpeace Spokesman Florian Faber said.

He vowed that Greenpeace would take its protest next to Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

"We have demanded a crisis meeting with Vranitzky, Environment Minister Martin Bartenstein and Krammer as well as consumer and environmental groups," he said.

The health minister has argued it is sufficient to label products containing the beans, developed by U.S. chemicals giant Monsanto Co Mtc to resist the widely used roundup weedkiller. She was not available for comment on Monday.

Nestle said it was satisfied the soybeans were safe. "We are singularly unimpressed with the scientific evidence presented by Greenpeace," Spokesman Francois Perroud said.

But official reassurances carried little weight with some European storekeepers. Two leading Austrian supermarket chains, Spar and Julius Meinl, have already said they will not stock products containing the altered beans — including margarine, chocolate and mayonnaise.

And in Britain many supermarkets called for more information and greater choice on the products. A spokesman for J. Sainsbury PLC said the retail community was "disappointed" that modified soya would come to Britain next year.

The supermarket's chief objection is that difficulties in distinguishing between modified beans and main crop product restricts consumer choice and causes labelling problems.

The European Union, apparently on the defensive over the issue, said it would not take a decision before December on whether to approve the sale and release of Ciba Geigy's genetically modified maize.

Genetically altered soybeans from the United States have sparked protests across Europe in recent weeks.

In Germany a Greenpeace barge picketed a ship bearing a cargo of the beans as it sailed up the River Elbe to Hamburg. In Belgium, the group mounted a 24-hour blockade of an Antwerp shipment. (Reuter)

Scientists Discover Rare, Prehistoric Carnivore

NEW YORK — Scientists have stumbled on the fossilized skull of a crocodile-like carnivore that lived 212 million years ago in what is now the northeastern United States.

The skull is the first of its kind to be found in the United States and only the second such skull unearthed in the world, said paleontologist Paul Olsen of Columbia University in New York.

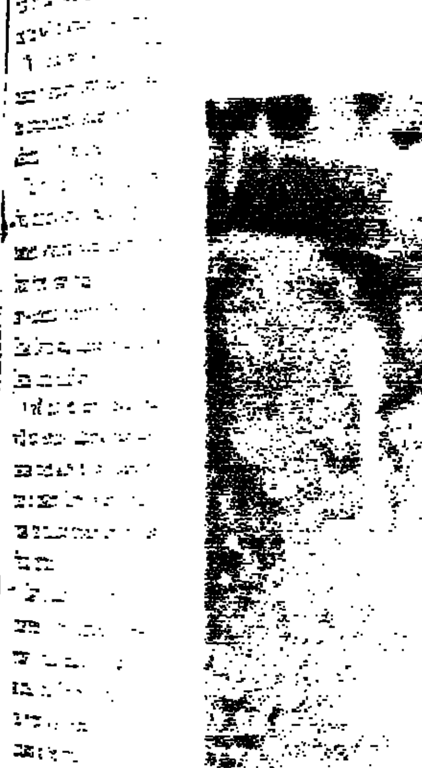
Scientists discovered a skull of a similar creature 102 years ago in Elgin, Scotland.

Olsen said the cold-blooded animal walked the earth during the Traissic Period, a poorly understood geologic era millions of years before dinosaurs appeared.

The skull is 7.6 centimeters (three inches) long and belongs to a small-boned, 51-centimeter (20-inch) reptile with a large head, a long, tooth-filled snout and long, slender legs.

"These little creatures are virtually unknown," said Hans-Dieter Sues, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada. "Life in the Triassic Era in general is a great blank, particularly in the (U.S.) Northeast."

Olsen said he came across the skull in Cheshire, Connecticut, in the cut of a road. (AP)



FAO Chief Defends Food Summit

ROME — The UN's food agency chief defended this week's World Food Summit as its blueprint to slash starvation came under attack from critics who say it will do little to dent hunger.

Jacques Diouf, director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, told Reuters in an eve-of-summit interview that a target to feed more than 400 million more people within 20 years was both "reasonable and achievable".

He said the fact that world leaders, around 100 of whom he expects in Rome for the summit, had unanimously endorsed the plan for the meeting meant they had the will to achieve its aims.

"We think we have a great chance of success provided...that the commitments made here are adhered to," Diouf said.

The five-day gathering, the first highest-level meeting on hunger, opened with speeches from Pope John Paul, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Diouf and Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

It will seek no hard cash and will not directly address humanitarian crises such as the catastrophe in eastern Zaire, where more than one million people are at risk from fighting.

Zaire is likely to figure on the margins of the summit, which many African heads of state will attend, and Boutros-Ghali said the event was bound to draw attention to the crisis.

"The summit tomorrow will help us to maintain mobilization of public opinion on this tragic situation," Boutros-Ghali told a news conference in Rome.

Two key documents for the summit, a declaration on world food security and a plan of action, have been agreed in advance for leaders to endorse at the outset of the gathering.

Though the texts have no legal force, they will commit governments to a drive to halve the 840 million people in the world who suffer chronic hunger or malnutrition by 2015.

A ministerial world food conference in 1974 had pledged to eradicate hunger within a decade.

"We have set targets that are more reasonable and more achievable," than in 1974, Diouf, who is from Senegal, said.

"We are not saying that there will be no person hungry... but we are saying that if we could halve the number of the hungry people we would have already made progress."

The NGO forum drafted its own statement for the summit, criticizing big-business farming and accusing rich countries of contributing to poverty and lack of self-reliance in the Third World by dumping cheap food on their markets.



"We propose a model of economic decentralization that challenges the current model, which has produced a concentration of wealth and power that now threatens global food security," the NGO draft statement reads.

The independent environmental research body Worldwatch also questioned the assumptions of the summit blueprint, saying strict population control was a key to resolving food scarcity.

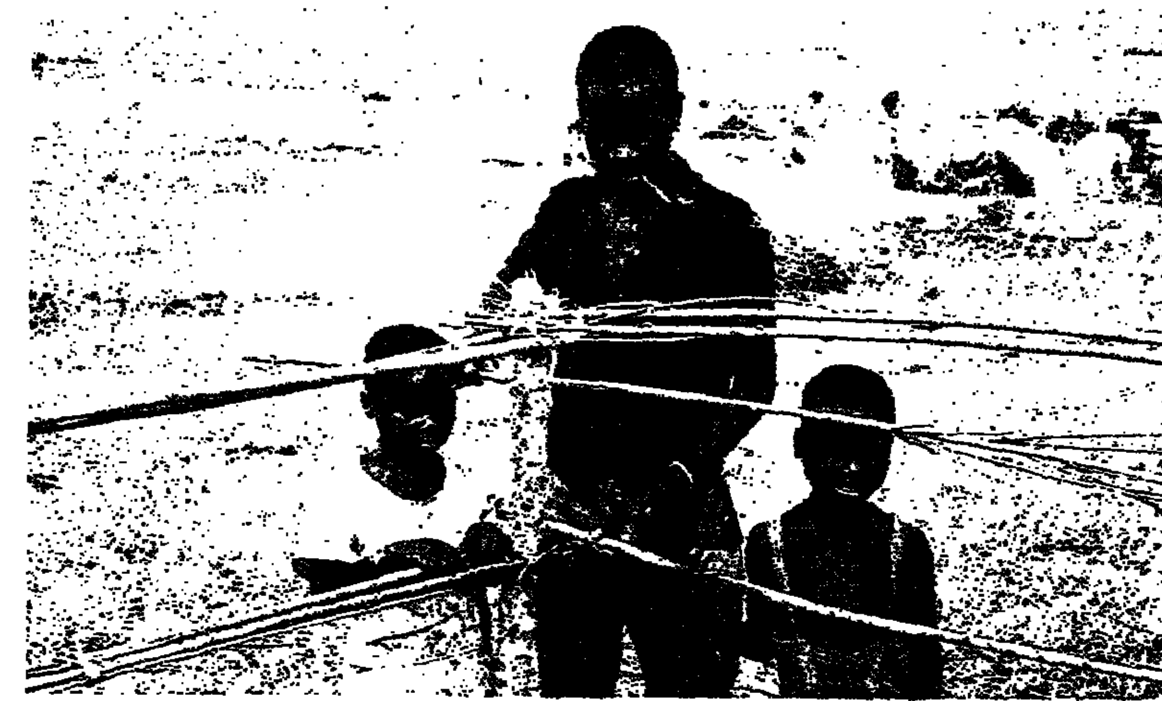
"The one thing that I would like to see from the conference is a letter from FAO Director General Jacques Diouf to his counterpart at the United Nations Population Fund," Worldwatch president Lester Brown told reporters. "It could be a very short letter. In fact it need have only one word in it: help."

FAO says the planet has to lift food production by 75 percent by 2030 just to keep up with population rises, based on UN forecasts of three billion more mouths to feed as population expands from 5.7 billion to a projected 8.7 billion.

The summit texts, agreed by FAO's 174 member states, contain compromise language on population and other issues of controversy such as trade and the role of women.

"Naturally, in a consensus document you will never find 100 percent of what you want and what your views are but we believe that the document offers a good basis for starting," Diouf said.

(Reuter)



Food Summit Eyes Action Plan for 2010

ROME — An action plan to halve the number of undernourished people by 2010 is a key aim of the World Food Summit.

Background material prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) set the target, which FAO said was "feasible and realistic", at 440 million.

Looking further ahead to 2050, a 72 percent increase in the world's population is forecast, at 9.8 billion compared with last year's tally of 5.7 billion.

The growth rate of world population was on the decline, FAO noted, at 1.5 percent per year from 1990 to 1995 and expected to fall to 1.0 percent per annum from 2020 to 2025 and to 0.5 percent a year between 2045 and 2050.

More and more countries would be achieving medium to high levels of food consumption per head, beyond which the scope for further increases was diminished, one study said.

There appeared to be a need for agricultural development to grow at declining rates, which would reduce the intensity of pressures on resources and the environment. If development took hold in low-income countries, environmental conservation would edge higher in priorities, the report said.

"It remains to be seen if the world can tread a sustainable path to this stage of easing of pressures of agricultural origin on resources and the environment," it went on. "There is no assurance that this will be so if development failures continue to plague numerous countries as they do at present."

In concluding remarks to a review of prospects, FAO experts said "the longer-term food security future of humanity need not be bleak if action is taken now."

They cited needed changes in the political, policy and institutional factors responsible for development failures and protracted mass poverty. There had to be investment in infrastructure and technology to enhance the productive potential of agriculture in sustainable ways.

The report said it was clear that "severe food insecurity problems will persist for a long time."

The paramount food security problem was that the pace of improvement in raising the per capita food supplies of the poor in developing countries as a whole "is too sluggish and the risk of outright stagnation or reversals in several of the most needy nations is a strong one".

FAO defines food security as a situation in which "all people at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy, active life".

It said growing urbanization was putting that at risk, with sub-Saharan Africa set by 2000 to quadruple its township numbers which would amount to 40 percent of the population.

(AFP)

Security Council Begins Process of Choosing New Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS — Representatives of the 15 countries in the UN Security Council began closed-door discussions on the selection of a secretary-general.

A U.S. official told AFP that there had been "no change in our position to oppose Boutros-Ghali for a second term," referring to current Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Egyptian's five-year term expires at the end of the year.

Washington believes Boutros-Ghali has not sufficiently reformed the UN's bureaucracy.

The representatives are due to resume discussions on the matter Monday.

Officials were tight-lipped on the matter Tuesday, with one delegate saying simply, "we've begun." The discussions took place at a Manhattan restaurant.

The delegate said diplomats see a need for "great flexibility" in the selection process, which has no set schedule.

The secrecy cloaking the process is not unlike the selection of a Roman Catholic pope.

In recent months, Egypt, France, Russia, China and numerous African and Arab countries have voiced support for Boutros-Ghali.

But many diplomats here believe the likelihood Boutros-Ghali will be reelected, even for a compromise two-year term rather than the regular five, appears extremely slim, particularly in view of vocal U.S. opposition.

According to the UN Charter, the secretary-general is named by the General Assembly acting upon recommendation of the Security Council.

Such a "recommendation" is achieved through what it known as "throw votes" that can be organized during closed door sessions.

If the vote starts next week it could show a fairly strong support for Boutros-Ghali -- 10 to 14 votes -- and would make the United States appear isolated.

But the U.S. veto, which would be irreversible, would effectively launch the serious stage of the process, with other candidates having no qualms about starting their campaigns in earnest.

(AFP)

U.S., Canada Grapple With Humanitarian Force for Zaire

WASHINGTON — The United States and Canada struggled to piece together a multinational force for Zaire as a 40-member U.S. military team traveled to the region to assess the growing humanitarian crisis.

Canada offered to lead the operation to provide relief to some 1.2 million refugees who are fleeing ethnic turmoil in eastern Zaire, but Prime Minister Jean Chretien asserted that Washington must join in the mission for it to be viable.

"U.S. participation is vital to the success of any mission," Chretien said in Ottawa.

U.S. officials here said no decision had been made about the force and remained tight-lipped about whether they supported Canada's proposal that it assume command.

"We've had discussions with a number of our allies about what is necessary to meet the humanitarian needs in Zaire and the Canadians are one of the leading allies we've been discussing this with," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

But he stated that "one of the questions that has to be resolved is, if indeed there is an international force, who would run it," adding that from the U.S. perspective, "one thing is clear, it won't be run by the United Nations."

According to UN diplomats, discussions focused on the command structure of the force, with the Americans insisting that their troops retain some degree of autonomy from the overall chain of command.

Washington has offered to secure the airport at Goma and would provide personnel for communications and other support functions, according to diplomats.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the force would number between 10,000 and 12,000 troops but Chretien spoke of a smaller operation comprised of 6,000 to 10,000 forces.

Aside from Canada, France and the United States, the force was expected to include troops from Mali, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Italy, and the Netherlands.

The force's mission would center primarily on providing humanitarian relief to the displaced people facing starvation and disease in the conflict-wracked region.

But the State Department said a plan would also be developed to allow the repatriation of refugees to Rwanda and emphasized that there must be "some sort of security component," spokesman Glyn Davies said.

"We believe very strongly that repatriation of refugees has got to be in the mix as we move forward here," he added.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon announced it was dispatching a team on a fact-finding mission but said the move was not intended to lay the groundwork for the future deployment of other U.S. troops.

The team, which will include medical specialists, engineers, civil affairs and security experts, was to arrive in the region Wednesday and will be headed by U.S. Army Major General Edward Smith.

The proposal to send the multinational force appeared to make headway when Rwanda said it was prepared to let France take part provided it did not supply arms and troops on the ground, according to diplomats.

The Tutsi-led Rwandan government and rebel forces in eastern Zaire had refused to allow the deployment of French troops because of an alleged bias in favor of the Tutsis' Hutu enemies.

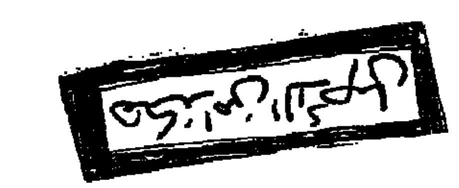
Rwanda fears a repeat of France's 1994 operation Turquoise which Kigali claims allowed the escape of Rwandan Hutu militiamen and troops responsible for the genocide in Rwanda that killed over 500,000 Tutsis.

U.S. officials said envoys Howard Wolpe and Richard Bogosian were holding talks in the region to win the agreement of Tutsi leaders to a French participation and to ensure secure conditions for deployment.

In Washington, a Canadian delegation led by Lieutenant General Maurice Baril, the Canadian officer expected to lead the multinational force, arrived at the White House earlier for talks, diplomats said.

They were to return to Ottawa later in the day and report to Chretien, who said he would be speaking by phone with Clinton in the evening.

(AFP)





KABUL, Afghanistan (November 12): Taleban fighters stand next to a tank that exploded at dawn in front of taleban residence resulting in a number of casualties. Speculation about the cause of the explosion centered on possible sabotage by agents loyal to the ex-Kabul government, whose military forces were pushed out of the capital by the Taleban on September 27.

(AFP PHOTO)

Rival Protests for East Timor Massacre Anniversary

JAKARTA — Rival protests were held in East Timor and Jakarta on Tuesday's fifth anniversary of a notorious massacre of East Timorese by Indonesian troops.

Hundreds of students took part in a demonstration in Dili, the East Timor capital, to support Carlos Ximenes Filipe Belo, the Roman Catholic bishop of the territory. More than 3,000 pro-Indonesian demonstrators went to a rally in Jakarta to condemn the bishop, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last month.

Residents of Dili said the city was "tense" for the anniversary of the Santa Cruz Cemetery massacre on November 12, 1991 when troops opened fire on scores of mourners.

Estimates of the number of dead range from 50 to 200 and Indonesia has since faced widespread criticism of its actions in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which it invaded in 1975 and annexed a year later.

Residents said most Dili shops were closed, offices and schools mostly empty, and little traffic was on city roads.

Hundreds of students staged a demonstration at the East Timor University courtyard in Dili to protest at an Indonesian newspaper article about the East Timor bishop.

The peaceful sit-in lasted four hours and dispersed around 11:00 a.m. (0300 GMT), one resident said, adding that security officials stood guard but did not take action.

There were also reports of stone throwing by students outside the university and in front of a Catholic high school in Dili.

Another Dili source said the students protested "to demand an apology from a Java-based newspaper over its article concerning the East Timorese bishop."

The unnamed newspaper ran an article last week demanding the expulsion of Belo over comments to a German magazine last month, the source said.

Last month's nobel award to Belo and exiled separatist activist Jose Ramos Horta focused new international attention on the territory, where thousands have died in conflict or from disease and starvation under Indonesian rule.

East Timor Deputy Police Chief Colonel Atok Rismanto told AFP from Dili he had no information about the student demonstration and that the city was "calm, no problems."

Rismanto said a commemorative ceremony was to be held at the Santa Cruz Cemetery on Tuesday.

The commemoration has been an annual event since the massacre for which number of soldiers were found guilty of not following orders and jailed for up to 18 months. But one Dili resident said "the commemoration may not happen because of the tense situation."

Dili sources said the city's old market was closed Tuesday. The market was the scene of a stabbing of a native trader last week also involving a migrant. This sparked violence involving students.

More than 3,000 pro-government protestors went to the Jakarta rally opposing Belo's comments, witnesses said.

Dressed in the brightly colored uniforms of youth groups linked to the ruling Golkar Party, the protesters shouted anti-Belo slogans and defended East Timor as a province of Indonesia.

"Belo said Indonesia is not good for East Timor, but it's not true. Indonesia has spent a lot of money building roads there and helping East Timor," said one of the demonstrators, Ojak Hutagael, from a group close to President Suharto's party.

There was widespread official anger in Indonesia over a report in the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, which quoted Belo as saying Indonesian troops were treating the East Timorese like "dogs" and "slaves."

Belo, who arrived Monday in Jakarta for an annual Indonesian episcopal conference, also said there had been nine attempts to assasinate him.

He told journalists he would not comment on the interview until he had heard a recording. (AFP)

Milosevic Sends Envoy to Pale as Officers Swear Allegiance to New Chief

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on Tuesday jumped into the power struggle between the Bosnian Serb political and military leadership, sending an envoy to this Serb stronghold to avert a full blown rebellion.

Belgrade sent Yugoslav Vice-Premier Nikola Sainovic to Pale to assess the power struggle between Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic and the sacked military command loyal to General Ratko Mladic, who has been indicted on charges of war crimes.

The visit is the first in four months by a senior official from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Pale, located about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Mladic and 80 officers of the top command of the Bosnian Serb military were sacked Saturday and replaced by a new team loyal to Plavsic, who was elected president of the Serb-run half of Bosnia in general elections in September.

The move was seen as an attempt by Plavsic to placate the international community. Leaders of all the main communities in Bosnia, along with international officials and officials from the region are due at a summit in Paris this week to review the peace process. The trial of war crimes suspects was one of the key demands of the peace process.

Late Monday, a statement issued by the Serb presidency said that the top officers of the Bosnian army had sworn allegiance to their new command.

"The commanders of all the army corps have totally accepted the decisions taken by the Supreme Defence Council on creating a new command and reorganizing and reconsolidating the army" of Republika Srpska (RS), said the statement issued after a Defense Council meeting.

The statement said the Defense Council had also agreed to reappoint two top commanders to their posts.

General Momir Talic will be in charge of the 1st Army Corps, the largest in the army, while General Novica Simic will command the 3rd Army Corps which notably has the disputed eastern town of Brcko in its brief.

But despite the announcement it remained unclear Tuesday who was actually in charge of the army. Mladic has refused to step down and about 100 high-ranking officers Monday pledged their "complete loyalty" to their dismissed commander.

They issued a statement accusing Plavsic of trying to purge the army of officers who are not members of her Serb Democratic Party and replacing them with inexperienced officers.

"The problem is not the sacking of the general staff but the quality of the officers named to replace them," one senior officer close to Mladic told AFP. "If we must, we can allow 80 or 100 officers to retire, on condition that they be replaced by officers capable of leading an army."

Observers in Belgrade said that Plavsic's move was also aimed at distancing herself from the Serbian capital which ran and paid for the Bosnian Serb Army during much of the war but was seen by ultra-nationalists, including Plavsic, as having betrayed their cause by signing the Dayton Peace Accords. (AFP)

Germany Postpones Eurofighter Decision to Next Year

BONN — The German government has decided to postpone a decision on placing an order for the production of the Eurofighter until next year, an authoritative source in the ruling center-right coalition said Tuesday after a meeting of coalition leaders.

A decision could be made in the first quarter of 1997 after Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, whose department is in the throes of budget cuts, submits a proposal in Cabinet, the source said. However Finance Minister Theo Waigel has already given an assurance that Germany will find the money despite budget problems.

After discussions on revamping the German Federal budget for 1997, Waigel raised the possibility Monday of switching funds for the production of the civilian airbus plane to the Eurofighter, saying this would be examined in the days and weeks to come.

Germany currently plans to order 180 examples of the new warplane, for which a total of 620 are envisaged by the Bonn government and its partners in the project — Britain, Italy and Spain. Britain, which has ordered 232 of the planes, says it is ready to start production.

The government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl had originally been due to place a firm order this year, and has come under pressure from its partners in recent days to take a firm decision. London and Madrid have already earmarked funds for a start in production.

But the Kohl government has just decided to lop 200 million marks off the 1997 defense budget of 46.5 billion marks, which reportedly makes no provision for Eurofighter financing.

The German firm in the project, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (DASA), had said it needed at least 392 million marks in 1997 for the project. The parliamentary Budget Commission is now expected to earmark 100 million marks for it to be going on with, sources at the coalition meeting said.

Total estimated German cost of the project has been brought down by DASA from 26 to 23 billion marks, but according to the sources Ruehe does not want to pay more than 21.3 billion marks.

Unit cost of the Eurofighter, which is intended to replace ageing aircraft such as the Phantom jet, is currently evaluated at around 100 million marks ($66 million). The Social Democrat opposition is against the project. (AFP)

HK Plays the People Card in Tussle With China Over Garrison

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Assembly, in an unusual move, Tuesday announced a three-week period of public consultation in a bid to prod China into changing laws governing the Chinese military garrison that will be stationed here after July 1.

The Legislative Council (LEGCO) called on members of the public to write in or express their views at a public meeting on December 3.

China has drawn up a draft law governing soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) who will be deployed in Hong Kong after the end of British rule.

The Hong Kong government wants the PLA forces to be uniformly subject to local jurisdiction, regardless of whether an offense was committed in or out of uniform.

But the draft law, which has been submitted to the standing committee of the National People's Congress, or Parliament, says Hong Kong courts should have jurisdiction over the troops only if they commit an offense while off duty.

China has reacted tartly to concern voiced in Hong Kong, especially by Governor Chris Patten. It says the Garrison law is a Chinese, not a British decision.

"The draft Garrison law has raised wide public concern," the LEGCO Secretariat said in a statement.

"It is intended that the views of the public on this urgent and important matter will be reflected to the Chinese side through channels available before the Garrison law itself is finalized."

The PLA deployment has triggered intense debate in Hong Kong, where memories are still vivid of the Chinese army's crushing of the pro-democracy movement in Beijing in June 1989.

Patten has already ruled out letting any advance PLA party have any weapons while in Hong Kong before the July 1 handover. (AFP)

Bhutto Tells Children "We Can Always Come Back"

ISLAMABAD — Benazir Bhutto has advice for her three children in case classmates poke fun at them now she has been sacked as Pakistan's prime minister.

Bhutto told Reuters television on Monday that she had a chat with her children after President Farooq Leghari summarily ousted her last week. She suspected her children's friends might 'taunt' them.

"So I said to them that if people tell you your mother is not prime minister any more, you just turn around and say, 'so what? She's been prime minister twice. How often has your mothers been prime minister?'

So I think that gave them a sense of relief and comfort and confidence."

Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, have three children — an eight-year-old son, Bilawal, and two daughters, Bakhtawar, six, and Asifa, three.

Bhutto, 43, was first dismissed in 1990 after 20 months in office. She was later cleared of eight charges of abuse of power and returned as prime minister in 1993.

She said she would stay in Islamabad rather than return to her ancestral home in Larkana or move to her residence in Karachi because her children attend school in the capital.

She also wants to keep a close eye on the Supreme Court when it takes up her petition challenging her ouster.

"I used to always tell them (her children) that you know why I work? I work very hard so all of you can live in this house".

"So I told them that even though I work very hard, now you're not going to be living in this house," Bhutto said speaking from the palatial prime minister's residence, which she plans to vacate on Tuesday.

"And my daughter said, 'But you can always come back.' And I said, 'Yes, who knows, we can always come back'." (Reuter)

Transdniestr Rejects All Participation in Moldovan Vote

TIRASPOL — Moldova's breakaway Transdniestr Republic has rejected even a limited participation in presidential elections to be held this month in Moldova, authorities said here Tuesday.

In a message to Russian authorities and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Transdniestr's leader Igor Smirnov said that any participation in the elections would be "useless," the republic's Foreign Relations Service said.

Smirnov said the vote "could be used to destabilize the economic and political situation in Transdniestr."

Smirnov was reacting to a proposal put forward by the Speaker of Moldova's Parliament Pyotr Luchinsky after Transdniestr's decision to boycott the November 17 vote.

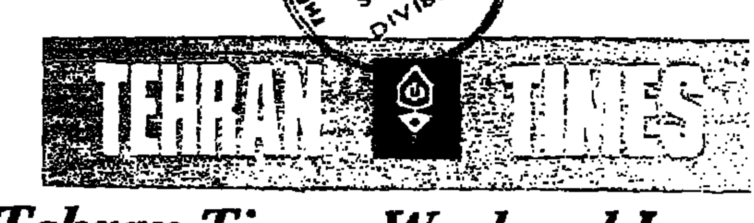
Luchinsky suggested that polling stations could be available in certain areas at the boundary between Transdniestr and the rest of Moldova where a Russian-Moldovan force is deployed. (AFP)







A Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THU., NOV. 14; ABAN 24,1375; RAJAB 2, 1417



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World in Highlight

Wednesday, November 6

Giant Glacial Flood Strands Residents in East Iceland



Residents of Fjords in eastern Iceland were cut off from the rest of the country after a giant glacial flood swamped the only road linking them to the capital.

Rwanda: Peace Force Could Go to Zaire Without Government Accord

President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda stated that a proposed international force to help refugees in neighboring Zaire could intervene without the approval of Zairean government.

Several Injured as PPP Protest Bhutto Sacking

At least 20 people were detained and several injured as the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) held a demonstration to protest against the ousting a day earlier of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Clinton Re-Elected, Republicans Control Congress

President Bill Clinton, all but written off politically two years ago, capped a stunning comeback with a resounding re-election victory but failed to carry his Democratic Party to power in Congress.

Thursday, November 7

Nigerian Plane Missing With 141 Aboard

A search was underway for a Nigerian jet carrying 141 people. The plane was reported missing after losing contact with air traffic controllers en route to Lagos.

A Whirlwind in Sweden Causes Havoc



A tornado ripped through the southern Swedish town of Mohedina. Three people were slightly injured when their car was caught by a twister and it overturned. The whirlwind caused widespread damage in the Smaland region according to official report.

De Chartte: Iran an Important and Key Country in Region

Iran should assume a role and take responsibility in the world scene due to the fact that it was a 'very important and a key country in the region'.

Argentinean Scioli, Italian Buzzi, Champions of the Key West World Championship



Daniel Scioli of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Fabio Buzzi of Annone Brianza, Italy, piloted their fin-tailed La Gran Argentina to a Superboat Vee-Class victory at the first of the two powerboat races of the Key West World Championship. The duo averaged 91.51 mph over the 130 miles course off the Florida Keys. The second and concluding event is scheduled for November 9.

Friday, November 8

Iran Clinches Wrestling World Championship



Iran defeated Russian side to clinch the 24th World Free-Style Wrestling championship.

Former Kennedy Aide Says Navy Missile Downed TWA 800

American journalist Pierre Salinger, a former aide of the late U.S. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy stood by his claims that a missile fired by a U.S. Navy warship accidentally downed TWA flight 800 off New York in July.

Saturday, November 9

Italians, Irish, Dutch FMs Begin Mideast Tour in Syria

Representatives of the European Union arrived in Damascus on the first stop of the Middle East tour to discuss the peace process, a Dutch diplomatic source said.

Police Chief Accused of Involvement in Murtaza Bhutto Killing



Nine senior police and intelligence officials were accused of involvement in the killing of Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a complaint filed at Karachi Police Station and accepted by the Sindh High Court.

Key UN Committee Ousts U.S. Members

The United States has been ousted for the first time in 50 years from a key UN budget committee, a move seen as a rebuke for Washington's failure to pay its back dues.

Egypt Rejects Puerto Rico-Like Status for Palestinians

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa rejected an Israeli proposal for a Puerto Rico-style limited sovereignty for the Palestinian territories.

Sunday, November 10

Refugees Return With Bullet Wounds in the Back



Hutu refugees returned to Rwanda from eastern Zaire with bullet wounds in their backs, saying that they were shot by fellow refugees in the Interahamwe militias, a UN spokesman said.

Indian PM Sends SOS for Cyclone-Hit State



Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda appealed for help for tens of thousands of people hit by a cyclone which destroyed parts of the southern coastal state of Andhra Pradesh.

China Suspends U.S. Imports in Response to Textile Quota Cuts

China's Foreign Trade Ministry announced that a temporary suspension of certain U.S. imports in retaliation for a recent U.S. cut in import quotas for Chinese textile

Monday, November 11

EU Wants Economic Boost for Palestinians, Criticizes Israel

A European Union delegation led by Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring called for economic benefits for the Palestiniasns from the peace process on the eve of the Cairo Economic Conference.

Taleban Claim Territorial Gains in North of Kabul



The Taleban militia said its troops had advanced about five kilometers up one of the highways north of Kabul after heavy firing.

Tuesday, November 12

Turkish Helicopter Crashes, Four Missing

A Turkish military helicopter crashed near the eastern Greek island of Rhodes and four crew members were missing and presumed dead.

'Smart' Technology Key To Prevent Air Bag Deaths

'Smart' technology is the only effective way of preventing fatal car injuries caused by deploying air bags but its introduction is at least two years away, according to us auto safety experts and consumer groups.

Iran in Highlight

Wednesday, November 6

Majlis Speaker, Nateq Nouri Presidential Candidate



Jame'a Rohaniyat-e-Mobarez (JRM) nominated Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri to run for the 7th round of presidential elections due to be held next June.

Iran, Turkey Ink Gas Pipeline Protocol



A protocol for building a pipeline for conduiting Iranian gas to Turkey was signed by Oil Minister of Iran Gholamreza Aqazadeh and Energy Minister of Turkey Recai Kutan, in Ankara.

Thursday, November 7

Kharrazi Rejects UAE Allegations on Iran Marine Areas Act

Iran's UN Permanent Representative refuted the allegations of the United Arab Emirates, saying that Iran's Marine Areas Act is not an impediment to freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Iran's Celebrated Medical Professor Awarded by Vice President

First Vice President of Iran, Hassan Habibi awarded a superior scholarship medal to Iran's celebrated medical Professor Abu-Torab Nafisi 81 for his scholarly works and dedication to the people.

Friday, November 8

Iran's Non-Oil Exports to Top $5bn This Year

Volume of non-oil exports by Iran is expected to reach five billion U.S. dollars by the end of March 1997, said Deputy Minister of Commerce for Export Promotion Center, Ali Saeedlou.

Jalali Collage Works: Juxtaposition of Traditional and Modern Arts



Amir Kabir Gallery put on exhibits October 15-21, some best collage works by Dr. Behnam Jalali Ja'afari who has made a name for himself in contemporary arts.

Saturday, November 9

Iran's Help to World's Deprived People Conforms With Spirit of Islam

In a meeting with the officials of Construction Jihad Ministry based in foreign countries, President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said that Iran's assistance to Muslims and deprived people of the world is in conformity with the spirit of Islam and the universal ideology of Islamic Republic.

Sunday, November 10

Iranian Pavilion Successful at Dubai Exhibit

Organizers of the Iranian pavilion at the GITEX '96 Computer Industry Exhibition of Dubai said that the computer softwares on display at the Iranian pavilion has drawn special attention of the visitors.

Monday, November 11

Rabbani Discusses Developments in Afghanistan With Habibi

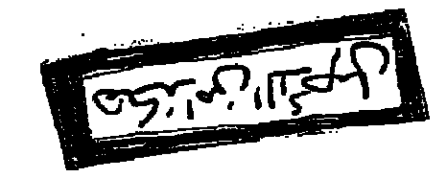


Visiting Afghan President, Burhanuddin Rabbani and First Vice President Hassan Habibi discussed the current situation in Afghanistan.

Tuesday, November 12

Majlis Support Sought For Tapping Country's Rich Mineral Resources

Mines and Metals Minister Hussein Mahlouji told the Majlis Plan and Budget Commission here today that with the support of the Majlis the value of the products of his ministry would rise to dlrs 12 billion per year.



What We Now Know About MEMORY

The alarm finally goes off in your head around 3 p.m. Your face flushes and your hands plow through the papers on your desk. You have accidentally stood someone up for lunch. It gets worse. You can't remember who. And still worse: you can't recall where you left your glasses, so you can't look up the name in your appointment book.

Why does our memory betray us? Is this a precursor of Alzheimer's disease? Are there ways to make memory clear again?

First, reassurance: a momentary loss of memory is probably not a sign of Alzheimer's. People between 65 and 75 face only a four- to ten-percent chance of Alzheimer's versus a 20- to 48-percent chance for those over 85. Yet almost all of us will be tripped up by forgetfulness as we age. Memory may begin to get a little shaky even in our late 30s, but the decline is so gradual that we don't start to stumble until we're in our 50s.

In recent years some neuroscience researchers have begun to pay more attention to this condition, called age-associated memory impairment (AAMI). But because of the enormousness of the job, much about memory is still mysterious. The brain has billions of neurons (nerve cells), many with thousands of connections through which they can send signals to neighboring neurons. Even the most advanced supercomputers would be unable to map the potential pathways.

Making Memories

This much is known, however: neuron No. 28, say, fires an electrical signal, and in the synapse where one of 28's connectors torches a receiver of neuron No. 29, a chemical change triggers an electrical signal in 29. That signal gets passed on to neuron No. 30, and on and on. If the connection between 28 and 29 is made often enough, the bond between the two neurons grows stronger. This crucial marriage seems to be the stuff that memory is made of.

Many scientists believe new information is absorbed and then processed into memory in the hippocampus, a seahorse-shaped organ in the center of the brain. The memories are then stored in sometimes bizarre patterns in various parts of the brain. The names of natural things, such as plants and animals, are apparently lodged in one part of the brain; the names of chairs, machines and other man-made stuff are in another. Nouns seem to be separated from verbs.

While age affects our ability to remember, other factors also make a difference. Marilyn Albert, a researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital, notes that among elderly people she has been studying, those who are less educated, less active physically and less able to control their day-to-day lives tend to experience greater memory loss than the better educated, who regard themselves as more in control.

Five Types.

While most people distinguish between long-term and short-term memory, many scientists believe there are actually five types of memory, each with a different likelihood of decaying over time. In order of durability, they are as follows:

Semantic. The memory of what words and symbols mean is highly resilient; about half of Alzheimer's patients retain much of their semantic memory. It's unlikely you'll forget what "prom" and "mess hall" mean, even though you haven't used the words in years. Nor do you forget religious symbols and corporate trademarks or what distinguishes a cat form a dog. You can add words to your semantic memory until death.

Implicit. Chances are, you will never forget how to ride a bike, swim or drive a car — skills that depend on automatic recall of a series of motions. Conditioned responses, such as reaching for a handkerchief when you sense a sneeze, also aren't likely to disappear. Loss of implicit memory is a sure sign of serious mental deterioration.

Remote. This is the kind of memory that wins money on "Jeopardy". It is data collected over the years from schools, magazines, movies, conversations, wherever. Remote memory appears to diminish with age in normal people, though the decline could be simply a retrieval problem. "It could be interference," says Johns Hopkins neurologist Barry Gordon. "We have to keep sorting through the constant accumulation of information as we age."

Working. Now we enter territory that erodes for most people. This is extremely short-term memory, lasting no more than a few seconds. It is the brain's boss, telling it what to cling to . In conversation, working memory enables you to hang on at the first part of your wife's sentence while she gets to the end. It also lets you keep several things and in mind simultaneously — to riffle through your mail, talk on the phone and catch the attention of a colleague walking by the door — all without losing your place.

Working memory in many people starts to slow down between ages 40 and 50. "Certain environment become more difficult, like the trading floor of a stock exchange, where you have to react very fast to a lot of information," says Richard Mohs, a psychiatry professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Jet-fighter combat is out.

Episodic. This is the memory of recent experience — everything from the movie you saw last week to where you put your glasses. It, too, dwindles over time, and its loss troubles many people. You remember how to drive your car, but you can't recall where you parked it.

Episodic memory could begin to dwindle in the late 30s, but the downward glide is so gentle that you probably won't notice it for a couple of decades. At 50, however, you are likely to feel a little anxiety as you watch the younger people in the office learn how to operate the new computer software more quickly than you do.

Several years ago a Massachusetts insurance company asked researchers to develop tests for identifying physicians at malpractice risk. Dean K. Whitla, a Harvard psychologist, and a team of researchers examined 1,000 doctors, ages 30 to 80. In one test the subjects were asked to read stories crammed with details, such as street addresses. A few minutes later they took a multiple-choice test.

Ability declined steadily with age. Though some of the 80-years-olds were as good as the 30-year-olds, on average the 80s could remember only half as much as the 30s. There were also some 80s who couldn't match the patients they had seen that day with their complaints.

New Connections.

Unlike cells elsewhere in the body, neurons don't divide. They age, and some percentage of them shrink or die. By the time someone reaches 65 or 70, neuron No. 28 and some of its neighbors may be dead, or so feeble they no longer transmit electrical charges efficiently.

Still, there are billions more neurons remaining. And even though the brain cannot grow new ones, the neurons can probably sprout new synapses late into life and thereby form new connections with one another. William Greenough, a researcher at the University of Illinois, supplied certain lab rats with new toys daily and changed the chutes and tunnels in their cages. When he cut open their brains, he counted many more synapses than in rats that got no toys and no new decor.

It's a good guess that the human brain, too, grows more synapses when stimulated and challenged. So the stimulated and challenged. So the brain — even while shrinking — may be able to blaze ever more trails for laying down memory. If neuron No. 28's path is no longer easily passable, the number of alternate routes may be virtually limitless. The trick is to force the brain to make them.

The habits of highly intelligent people offer a clue as to how to do that. "Memory depends on processing," says Daniel L. Schacter, a Harvard psychology professor. "Very smart people process information very deeply." Perhaps they relate a magazine article on memory to a book on artificial intelligence and a play about prison-camp survivors. Doing so, they could by laying networks of neuron highways that will make the recollection of the article, book or play accessible by multiple routes.

That might explain why some famous people have boasted extraordinary memories. Conductor Arturo Toscanini knew every note of more than 400 scores. Winston Churchill could recall so much Shakespeare that he would mouth the Bard's words from the audience during performances. Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates still remembers hundreds of lines of source code for his original Basic programming language.

Could some of these feats be explained by a photographic memory? No, because there's no such thing, say researchers. Though many people can recall lists of numbers or repeat conversations word for word, nobody, says Richard Mohs, "records in a raw, sensory form with the detail a photograph does. Everybody's memory is selective."

Tricks to Remember.

The good news is that, with effort, people who have average intellects can boost their memories substantially. For example, most people have trouble remembering numbers of more than seven digits or so, a limitation long recognized by telephone companies. But researchers at Carnegie Melon University trained otherwise undistinguished undergraduates to memorize hundred-digit numbers. Focusing hard on that long string of digits, the students found patterns they could relate to meaningful number series, such as birthdays.

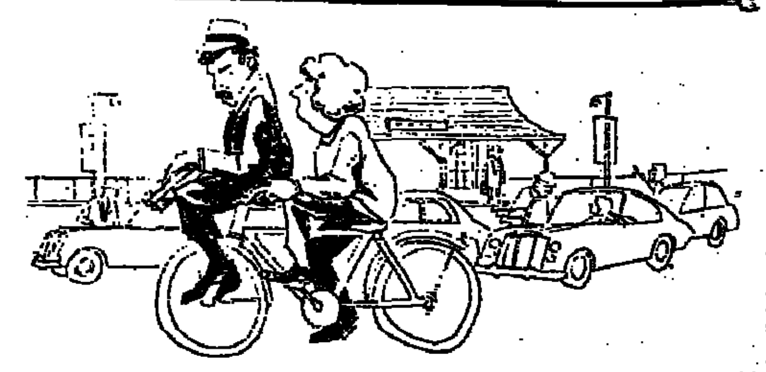
The forgetting of names bedevils many people, the more so as they age. But Harry Lorayne, 69, a memory coach and performer, can memorize the names of as many as 500 people in an audience. His technique is to look at and listen intently to everyone he encounters and then quickly invent a dramatic image to associate with that person's face and name. "I meet Mr. Bentavena, and I notice he has a big nose," Lorayne says. "So I think 'vane,' like weather vane, a nose that's a bent weather vane."

College students may be superior at memorizing, not only because their neurons are young but also because they are in the habit of developing mnemonic devices to survive exams. That's an easy practice to resume. For example, memory is WIRES — working, implicit, remote, episodic and semantic. Another way to improve your memory, according to many experts, is to exercise your brain. You might choose to hang out with challenging, fast-thinking company. Or you might take on a new field of study: accounting, zoology or a language.

Coming someday perhaps is a memory pill. Cortex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., founded by three neuroscientists from the University of California at Irvine, claims to have developed a class of drug that amplify the signals passed between weakened neurons. The company reports that laboratory tests with rats and preliminary clinical trials on humans in Germany have been encouraging. It hopes to test the drugs soon on Alzheimer's victims.

These or other drugs may eventually prove to be an effective way to help remember things. But why wait for drugs to be tested and approved? After all, you could be exercising your memory right now by learning Chinese.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)



"When are you going to tell me what happened to the car, Martha?"



German Cheesecake

You will need...	**8 oz. plain flour**
	¼ teaspoon salt
	4 oz. butter
	2 oz. castor sugar
	2 tablespoons water
Preparation time	**8 oz. carton cottage cheese**
25 minutes	**4 egg yolks**
	4 oz. sugar
Cooking time	**1 oz. ground almonds**
2 hours	**finely grated zest of 1 large lemon**
	5 oz. carton soured cream
Oven setting	**2 oz. sultanas**
400°F: gas mark 6	**2 oz. candied peel, finely chopped.**
335°F: gas mark 3	**2 egg whites**
	4 oz. castor sugar

Make up pastry and line a Swiss roll in 7x11x1-inch and crimp edges. Cover with foil, then baking beans and bake 'blind' in a hot oven, for 15 minutes. Remove beans and foil and continue baking for 7-10 minutes until pastry is completely cooked.

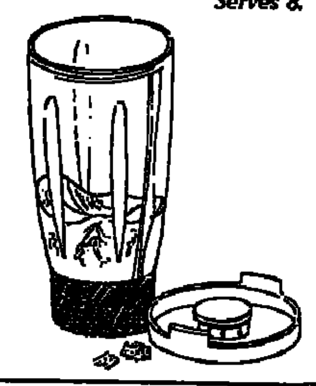
Sieve cottage cheese. Cream egg yolks and sugar. Stir almonds (or 1 oz. self-raising flour), egg mixture, lemon zest, soured cream, sultanas and candied peel into cottage cheese. Mix well. Remove pastry case from over and turn oven to very moderate. Whisk egg whites for lattice topping until they are very stiff. Whisk in half the sugar. Fold in remaining sugar.

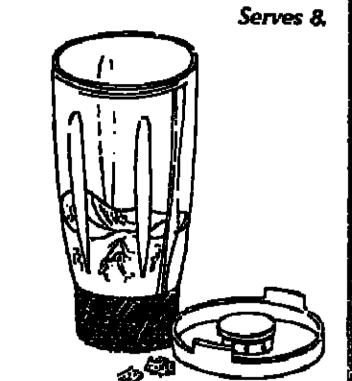
Fill pastry case with cottage cheese mixture. Pipe a fine lattice of meringue over the top, using a $\frac{1}{4}$-inch plain tube. Return cheesecake to oven and bake for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours. At the end of this time turn off oven and leave cheesecake for further half an hour. Remove and chill.

Serves 8.

QUICK TIP

This cheesecake improves with keeping for 2-3 days before eating, it becomes more moist. If you have an electric blender use it instead of sieving for pureeing the cottage cheese.





Answers to Last Week's DOUBLE TALK

ACROSS: 1. Excess 4. Actual 9. Manic 10. Aquatic 11. Trestle 13. Three 14. Senile 15. Modern 18. Extra 20. Assuage 22. Assuage 22. Digging 23. Swing 24. Rather 25. Banner.

DOWN: 1. Emmet 2. Condemn 3. Sec 5. Courteous 6. Utter 7. Lectern 8. Later 12. Talkative 14. Slender 16. Elation 17. Large 19. Tight 21. Eager 23. Sea.

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Nepal*

An Ancient Cycle of Trade

In a remote corner of the Himalaya, two distinct cultures preserve an age-old trade in life's necessities. Buddhist yak herders of Dolpo, a region in northwestern Nepal, leave their mountain home each summer to trade for salt in Tibet, then for grain in central Nepal. There they meet the Rong-pa Hindu shepherds in need of salt, who travel the trail in caravans of their own.

In the high and dry reaches of northwestern Nepal, the **Dolpo-pa** can grow only enough grain to feed themselves for half a cyar. They must trade for the rest, first guiding yak caravans across the Chinese border into Tibet to trade barley and corn for salt—a dietary necessity in short supply in Nepal. Then they turn south, driving salt-laden caravans through mountain passes to reach the feothills of central Nepal, where grain is plentiful. Awaiting them are the **Rong-pa,** a people rich in grain, who need salt for themselves and their large flocks of sheep and goats. Chinese restrictions now limit how much Tibetan salt the Dolpo-pa can offer, so after trading with them, the Rong-pa load their animals with saddlebags filled with red beans and take caravans farther south to trade for salt from India.

South of the dusty terraced fields of Dolpo, an ethnic region within Dolpa, Nepal's largest and most remote district, lies the Himalaya's massive Dhaulagiri range, which robs Dolpo of its life-giving moisture. During its brief summer monsoon clouds from the Bay of Bengal are stopped by the peaks of the Dhaulagiri. Only occasional showers fall on Dolpo's thirsty land desiccates. Temperatures plummet. By December Dolpo is a virtual mountain desert, impenetrable behind walls of ice until spring.

Because the land is too poor and too arid to yield more than half a year's supply of grain, the people of Dolpo, known as the Dolpo-pa, depend on trade to supplement their harvests. In a pattern of barter as old as the region's first settlements, they trvel north to Tibet in July with their yak caravans to trade barley from their fields and corn from the south for salt from the flats surrounding Lake Drabye.

They keep part of the salt for themselves and for their animals. The rest they take south over some of the highest passes in the world to trade for corn and other grains grown on the southern flanks of the mountains. The profit made by the Dolpo-pa on the transactions allows them to survive year-round. It is a trade of life.

Settled centuries ago by people from Tibet, Dolpo has remained a pocket of traditional Tibetan culture in this fast-chainging part of Asia. When the Chinese clamped down on Tibet in 1959, their occupation stopped at Nepal's northern border. To the south the nearest airport is still ten days away by foot through passes open only eight months of the year.

Yet change is starting to arrive here. For the first time--in a land where fire is still made with flint, yaks take the place of the wheel, and villagers worship the gods of the mountains, sky, and rivers--cans and plastic bags have been spotted along newly opened tourist trails and children wearing Mickey Mouse T-shirts and ragged nylon pants instead of the usual woolen tunics and felt boots. One by one, the great caravans of the Himalaya are disappearing.

The Rong-pa too are caravanners, taking red beans to southern Nepal to trade for rice and iodized salt from western India.

Two cultures. Two climates. Two ways of life. Linked together by need, the yak caravans of the Dolpo-pa and the sheep caravans of the Rong-pa are the bloodstream of the Himalaya, moving the essentials of life back and forth across the mountains.

In October the harvest in Dolpo is finished. New leather soles are stitched onto felt boots, and the click-clack of looms is heard in every home as women finish weaving woolen threads into brightly striped blankets. It is time for the yak caravan.

By November the temperature is dropping. In the morning the streams are covered with ice. A piercing cold will paralyze Dolpo for the next six months. Every day the villagers anxiously watch the skies for the first hint of winter storms, wondering if the caravan will get out before snows black the passes to the south. Highly superstitious, only the lamas can divine the most auspicious date for the caravan's departure.

The chant of lamas and the trumpeting of conch shells announce that the ceremonies of departure have begun. Handfuls of barley are thrown into the wind as offerings to the gods, who must be appeased to ensure a safe journey and to protect their houses while the caravanners are gone.

After nine days on the trail the Dolpo caravan reaches the foot of Baga La, the most difficult of four passes. The caravanners are tense. The chief throws a handful of salt onto the fire. Everyone is silent. If the salt is dry, it crackles, meaning snow is far away. If the salt is wet, it stays silent, and storms are approaching. The salt sputters. Everyone breathes a sigh. The gods are with them. Despite heavy clous, snow does not fall.

Four hundred yaks--from Saldang and Namdo--climb the slope to Baga La. The broad, zigzag trail is icy and treacherous. Women smear a black substance under their eyes to protect them from snow blindness. The men wrap their long braids over their eyes.

Chakhure Lagna at 13,589 ft, the highest pass traversed by southbound Rong-pa sheep caravans on the trail to Bhotechaur, a trading center in southwestern Nepal.

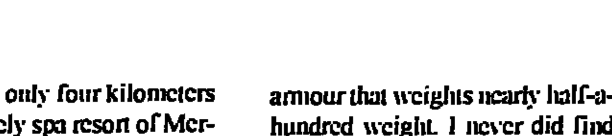
Eight days later the caravan reaches the village of Hurikot. Here most of the people are Hindu. Women wear long skirts and short bodices of cotton. Men wear the *topi*, the traditional Nepalese cap, and a black jacket over cotton shirt and trousers.

Tilen, the Dolpo-pa chief, greets Budhi Dhami, his *ista*, or traditional trading partner. Their families have done business together for longer than anyone can remember.

"The Chinese did not give us much salt this year," says Tilen. "I could only bring 12 loads (about 1,500 pounds)." For his part, Budhi complains of the lack of rain, the bad harvest, and the neighbors' cows, who ate half the crop.

Finally Tilen asks for four measures of corn for one of salt. As leader he is responsible for negotiating the trade for all of the Dolpo-pa, including their right to pasture their yaks in the surrounding valley. Negotiation often takes as long as three days.

Finally the rate is fixed: one mesure of salt for two and a half measures of corn. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, Vol. 184, No. 6, December 1993.)



The Mail

Dear Sir,

I am a regular reader of the *Tehran Times* and regard it as a commendable newspaper. But recently I have regretfully noted that the word "fundamentalism" is being improperly attributed to the chaotic Taliban group in Afghanistan by this newspaper.

It should be noted that *fanaticism* is a very destructive characteristic whereas *fundamentalism* is a very constructive human trait. But Westerners, some out of ignorance and some out of mischief, interchange these two terms and mislead the guidance-seeking masses of the world.

The basic purpose of every religion is to make people humane and guide them towards godliness. Without becoming humane it is impossible to become genuinely godly. Hence, the goal of true religion is to guide men to become humane and godly.

In general fanatic, chaotic and opportunist people or groups also claim to be religious, the indicative sign pointing to such people being their narrow-mindedness and ignorance. To achieve their goals they very boldly tread over the basic fundamentals of their religion.

The behavior of the Taliban in Afghanistan so far does not, in the least, abide by the principles of Islam. In fact, their behavior is a great insult to Islam. Hence, labeling this group as "fundamentalist" is absolutely inaccurate.

Your truly,
Nader Agahi

Travelogue

Italy's Best Kept Secret

It's not only the cuisine that is bicultural here. People of Austrian and Italian origin have lived here side by side since Austria ceded the South Tyrol (or Alto Adige as it is called in Italian) to Italy at the end of World War I.

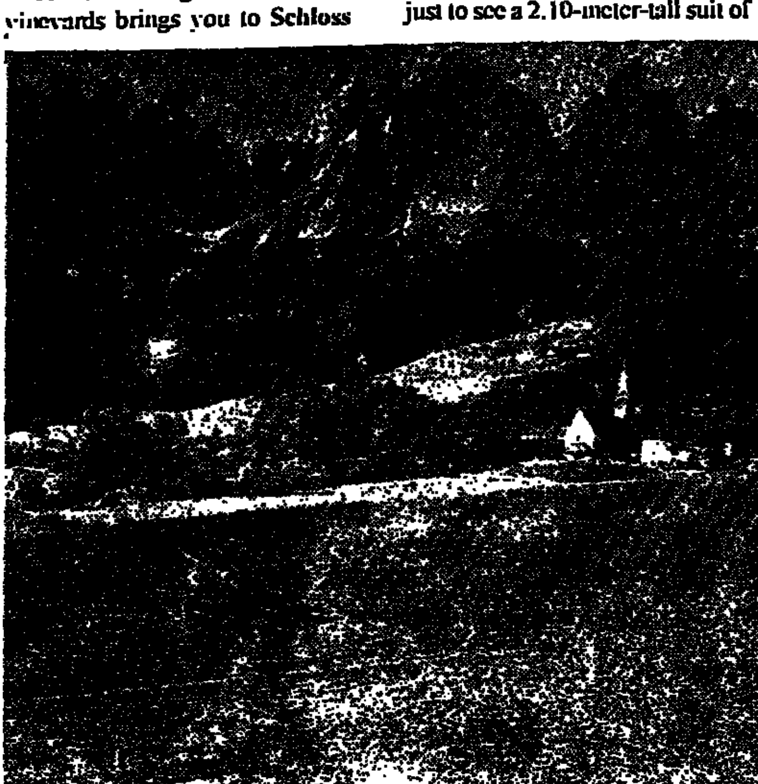
The Alto Adige contains some of the most spectacular scenery in Italy. To the east of Bolzano, the capital of the region, is Europe's largest area of mountain pastureland--the Seiseralm, a magical place high above the valleys, surrounded by the dramatic Dolomites, where acres of brilliant wild flowers bloom throughout the summer. It is ideal for walking.

The vast network of trails on the Seisaralm makes it almost impossible to get lost. This is mountain walking for softies--no hills to climb or rocks to scale, just gently undulating grassland where you wade through a sea of color. Occasionally you come across small wooden houses nestling in the Alpine meadows as though they grew there. Some have huge rocks piled on the roofs as protection against winter gales.

Castles are a big feature of the Auto Adige. Over 350 of them brood on hilltops, nestle in vineyards or cling to rock faces. Most were built in the 12th and 13th centuries and many are still lived in. Some are run as hotels and restaurants.

A walk through orchards and vineyards brings you to Schloss **Thurnstein,** only four kilometers from the lovely spa resort of Merano, where dining is a memorable experience. The food is great and the view is splendid.

Another castle, **Schloss Churburg** near the town of Mals is still owned by the von Trapp family--of *The Sound of Music* fame. It houses a marvelous collection of ancient armour and is worth a visit just to see a 2.10-meter-tall suit of armour that weights nearly half-a-hundred weight. I never did find out who this mysterious giant was.



Mals, a small town in Alto Adige, where part of *The Sound of Music* was filmed.

Walking from castle to castle is a popular activity and one of the best areas for doing this is Eppan--the name given to a group of small villages set in a lush, wine-growing valley. A comfortable day's walk, at an easy pace, can take you through shaded woods and sunny fields to lunch at one castle: dinner and overnight stay at another. At **Schloss Hochep-pan** you can count some 30 castles and fortresses from battlements while enjoying lunch. The castle dates back to Roman times and the chapel contains frescoes that are considered among the best examples of Romanesque style to be found anywhere. An interesting curiosity can be seen in the chapel--a fresco depicting the first Tyrolean *knoedel*, a dumpling, in a work of art.

Another castle, **Schloss Englar,** is still the home of a countess whose family has owned it for over 300 years. Sleeping in old castles with thick stone walls is romantic, but these 12th century hostelries draw the line at old-fashioned plumbing. Sparkling bathrooms with the most up to date fittings are *de rigueur*.

(To be cont'd)



1975 — Morocco and Mauritania reach agreement on future of Spanish Sahara.

1987 — Italy's Premier Giovanni Goria resigns after tiny Liberal Party backs out of his coalition.

1989 — Black Nationalist Movement (SWAPO) wins a solid majority in Namibia's first national elections.

1990 — More than 300 people are arrested and about 70 injured as police clear anarchist squatters from Berlin neighborhood.

1991 — El Salvador's leftist rebels say they will halt all offensives until peace accord with government is reached. Prince Norodom Sihanouk returns to Cambodia after 20 years.

1992 — A pro-British gunman kills at least two people and wounds 13 in a Belfast bookmaker's shop.

1993 — Supporters of continued U.S. commonwealth status for Puerto Rico prevail at the polls over those who want statehood.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Mojtaba Takin



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1988 — Dalai Lama says he will settle for less than full independence for Tibet in order to prevent assimilation by China.

1989 — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank celebrate one-year anniversary of the PLO's declaration of independence for the Palestinian people.

1990 — *Leningrad decides to ration food due to extreme shortages.* First major U.S.-Saudi military exercise, "Imminent Thunder" begins.

1991 — U.S. Secretary of State Baker arrives in China for talks on trade, human rights and arms proliferation.

1992 — Shining Path rebels detonate two bombs in Lima wounding 10 people, their largest attack since their leader was arrested.

1993 — Gunmen in Lebanon kill a senior aide of Yasser Arafat in the fifth assassination of a PLO official since the Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed.

The Immortals

Jorge Luis Borges

...and see, no longer blinded by our eyes. — **Rupert Brooke**

Whoever could have foreseen, way back in that innocent summer of 1923, that the novelette *The Chosen One* by Camilo N. Huergo, presented to me by the author with his personal inscription on the flyleaf (which I had the decorum to tear out before offering the volume for sale to successive men of the book trade), hid under the thin varnish of fiction a prophetic truth. Huergo's photograph, in an oval frame, adorns the cover. Each time I look at it, I have the impression that the snapshot is about to cough, a victim of that lung disease which nipped in the bud a promising career. Tuberculosis, in short, denied him the happiness of acknowledging the letter I wrote him in one of my characteristic outbursts of generosity.

The epigraph prefixed to this thoughtful essay has been taken from the aforementioned novelette; I requested Dr. Montenegro, of the Academy, to render it into Spanish, but the results were negative. To give the unprepared reader the gist of the matter, I shall now sketch, in condensed form, an outline of Huergo's narrative, as follows:

The storyteller pays a visit, far to the south in Chubut, to the English rancher don Guillermo Blake, who devotes his energies not only to the breeding of sheep but also to the ramblings of the world-famous Plato and to the latest and more freakish experiments in the field of surgical medicine.

On the basis of his reading, don Guillermo concludes that the five senses obstruct or deform the apprehension of reality and that, could we free ourselves of them, we would see the world as it is — endless and timeless. He comes to think that the eternal models of things lie in the depth of the soul and that the organs of perception with which the Creator has endowed us are *grosso modo*, hindrances. They are no better than dark spectacles that blind us to what exists outside, diverting our attention at the same time from the splendor we carry within us.

Blake begets a son by one of the farm girls so that the boy may one day become acquainted with reality. To anesthetize him for life, to make him blind and deaf and dumb, to emancipate him from the senses of smell and taste, were the father's first concerns. He took, in the same way, all possible measures to make the chosen one unaware of his own body. As to the rest, this was arranged with contrivances designed to take over respiration, circulation, nourishment, digestion, and elimination. It was a pity that the boy, fully liberated, was cut off from all human contact.

Owing to the press of practical matter, the narrator goes away. After ten years, he returns. Don Guillermo has died; his son goes on living after his fashion, with natural breathing, heart regular, in a dusty shack cluttered with mechanical devices. The narrator, about to leave for good, drops a cigarette butt that sets fire to the shack and he never quite knows whether this act was done on purpose or by pure chance. So ends Huergo's story, strange enough for its time but now, of course, more than outstripped by the rockets and astronauts of our men of science.

Having dashed off this disinterested compendium of the tale of a now dead and forgotten author — form whom I have nothing to gain — I steer back to the heart of the matter. *Memory restores to me a* Saturday morning in 1964 when I had an appointment with the eminent gerontologist Dr. Raul Narbondo. The sad truth is that we young bloods of yesteryear are getting on; the thick mop begins to thin, one or another ear stops up, the wrinkles collect grime, molars grow hollow, a cough takes root, the backbone hunches up, the foot trips on a pebble, and, to put it plainly, the pater-familias falters and withers. There was no doubt about it, the moment had come to see Dr. Narbondo for a general checkup, particularly considering the fact that he specialized in the replacement of malfunctioning organs.

Sick at heart because that afternoon the Palermo Juniors and the Spanish Sports were playing a return match and maybe I could not occupy my place in the front row to bolster my team, I betook myself to the clinic on Corrientes Avenue near Pasteur. The clinic, as its fame betrays, occupies the fifteenth floor of Adamant Building. I went up by elevator (manufactured by the Electra Company). Eye to eye with Narbondo's brass shingle, I pressed the bell, and at long last, taking my courage in both hands, I slipped through the partly open door and entered into the waiting room proper. There, alone with the latest issues of the *Ladies' Companion* and *Jumbo*, I whiled away the passing hours until a cuckoo clock struck twelve and sent me leaping from my armchair. At once, I asked myself, What happened? Planning my every move now like a sleuth, I took a step or two toward the next room, peeped in, ready, admittedly, to fly the coop at the slightest sound. From the streets far below came the noise of horns and traffic, the cry of a newspaper hawker, the squeal of brakes sparing some pedestrian, but, all around me, a reign of silence. I crossed a king of laboratory, or pharmaceutical back room, furnished with instruments and flasks of all sorts. Stimulated by the aim of reaching the men's room, I pushed open a door at the far end of the lab.

Inside, I saw something that my eyes did not understand. The small enclosure was circular, painted white, with a low ceiling and neon lighting, and without a single window to relieve the sense of claustrophobia. The room was inhabited by four personages, or pieces of furniture. Their color was the same as the walls, their material wood, their form cubic. On each cube was another small cube with a latticed opening and below it a slot as in a mailbox. Carefully scrutinizing the grilled opening, you noted with alarm that from the interior you were being watched by something like eyes. The slots emitted, from time to time, a chorus of sighs or whisperings that the good Lord himself could not have made head or tail of . the placement of these cubes was such that they faced each other in the form of a square, composing a kind of conclave. I don't know how many minutes lapsed. At this point, the doctor came in and said to me, "My pardon, Bustos, for having kept you waiting. I was just out getting myself an advance ticket for today's match between the Palermo Juniors and the Spanish Sports." He went on, indicating the cubes, "Let me introduce you to Santiago Silberman, to retired clerk-of-court Luduena, to Aquiles Molinari, and to Miss Bugard."

Out of the furniture came faint rumbling sounds. I quickly reached out a hand and, without the pleasure of shaking theirs, withdrew in good order, aged to stammer, " A drink. A stiff drink."

Narbondo came out of the lab with a graduated beaker filled with water and dissolved some effervescent drops into it. Blessed concoction — the wretched taste brought me to my senses. Then, the door to the small room closed and locked tight, came the explanation:

"I'm glad to see, my dear Bustos, that my immortals have made quite an impact on you. Whoever would have thought the *Homo sapiens*, Darwins' barely human ape, could achieve such perfection? This, my house, I assure you, is the only one in all Indo-America where Dr. Eric Stapledon's methodology has been fully applied. You recall, no doubt, the consternation that the death of the late lamented doctor, which took place in New Zealand, occasioned in scientific circles. I flatter myself, furthermore, for having implemented his precursory labors with a few Argentinean touches. In itself, the thesis — Newton's apple all over again — is fairly simple. The death of the body is a result, always, of the failure of some organ or other, call it the kidney, lungs, heart, or what you like. With the replacement of the organism's various components, in themselves perishable, with other corresponding stainless or polyethylene parts, there is no earthly reason whatever why the soul, why you yourself — Bustos Domecq — should not be immortal. None of your philosophical niceties here; the body can be vulcanized and from time to time recaulked, and so the mind keeps going. Surgery brings immortality to mankind. Life's essential aim has been attained — the mind lives on without fear of cessation. Each of our immortals is comforted by the certainty, backed by our firm's guarantee, of being a witness *in aeternum*. The brain, refreshed night and day by a system of electrical charges, is the last organic bulwark in which ball bearings and cells collaborate. The rest is Formica; steel, plastics. Respiration , alimentation, generation, mobility — elimination itself! — belong to the past. Our immortals is real estate. One or two minor touches are still missing, it's true. Oral articulation, dialogue, may still be improved. As for the costs, you need not worry yourself. By means of a procedure that circumvents legal red tape, the candidate transfers his property to us, and the Narbondo Company, Inc. —I, my son, his descendants — guarantees your upkeeps, in *statu quo*, to the end of time. And, I might add, a money-back guarantee."

It was then that he laid a friendly hand on my shoulder. I felt his will taking power over me. "Ha-ha! I see I've whetted your appetite, I've tempted you, dear Bustos. You'll need a couple of months or so to get your affairs in order and to have your stock portfolio signed over to us. As far as the operation goes, naturally, as a friend, I want to save you a little something. Instead of our usual fee of ten thousand dollars, for you, ninety-five hundred — in cash, of course. The rest is yours. It goes to pay your lodging, care and service. The medical procedure in itself is painless. No more than a question of amputation and replacement. Nothing to worry about. On the eve, just keep yourself calm, untroubled. Avoid heavy meals, tobacco, and alcohol, apart from your accustomed and imported, I hope, Scotch or two. Above all, refrain from impatience."

"Why two months?" I asked him. "One's enough, and then some. I come out of the anesthesia and I'm one more of your cubes. You have my address and phone number. We'll keep in touch. I'll be back next Friday at the latest."

AT the escape hatch he handed me the card of Nemirovski, Nemirovski, & Nemirovski, Counsellors at Law, who would put themselves at my disposal for all the details of drawing up the will. With perfect composure I walked to the subway entrance, then took the stairs at a run. I lost no time. That same night, without leaving the slightest trace behind, I moved to the New Impartial, in whose register I figure under the assumed name of Aquiles Silberman. Here, in my bedroom at the far rear of this modest hotel, wearing a false beard and dark spectacles, I am setting down this account of the facts.

ANIMAL CRACKERS



